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Ancien Elève de l'Ecole des Mines, Paris.

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### Royal School of Mines.

#### PROF. SMYTH'S LECTURES ON MINING—No. XXXII. [BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

We have considered the method of securing shafts till we get down to a sure foundation. In some cases the masonry is put together at the surface of the ground, and then lowered. In metallic mines, where the shafts are inclined according to the inclination of the vein, this plan cannot be adopted; consequently, where there is much water it has to be kept down by pumping. Even where other portions of the shaft are secured in another manner, as with timber, there will be considerable advantage in securing the upper portion by means of masonry. Where in the old shafts there was only a small area to be protected, our forefathers took a great deal of pains in securing them, and this was by no means thrown away, seeing that otherwise the shafts would have collapsed at the surface. It is too much the case now in metalliferous mines that they are not walled up to the top of the shaft, and consequently this part is forced in, giving rise to expenses and dangers, and leading in some cases to loss of life, and in all causing considerable risk. The means of securing against this would be to line up from a secure foundation the sides of the shaft with stonework. Then, when the mine is abandoned, the top might be covered up with a few large stones, and if it were required again the shaft would probably be found intact, otherwise it would be very likely to have collapsed and have fallen in.

We pass now to another part of the subject—the precautions which have to be taken to prevent the introduction of water into the shaft. In some cases this water may have to be battled with only for a time, in others it entails a grievous constant charge. These methods are known in England under the name of tubbing, or coffering, and the subject is one which has attracted very little attention before the commencement of the present century; since then, however, it has gone through several phases, and in many cases it has accomplished a great success. For example, several cases are known where at first a large array of engines had to be employed to pump out the water, but these have been tubbed so effectually that the mines have been worked quite dry. Tubbing comes into play very seldom in the case of lodes, for the lode being more or less vertical, it is little worth while attempting to protect the shaft, since the water will only make its way down somewhere else along the strike of the lode. Still certain dams may be put in in places, but the process never attains to anything like the importance that it does in stratified rocks. If we are sinking a shaft to intersect a lode at a certain point, and are troubled with water at the surface, it may then be worth while to tub out the water, but having once struck the vein the tubbing will be of no use. Suppose that with stratified rocks we have a district of hill and dale, and at some point intermediate between the highest and lowest ground we have to sink a shaft. If this shaft is situated in alluvial material, especially in a valley of a river, where the gravels probably extend to a great distance on each side, then it would be very inconvenient to sink through such ground. Similarly if there were alternating beds of alluvium, gravel, loose sand, and clay it might be a very difficult matter to get through such ground, in consequence of the great quantities of water and the looseness of the ground. If you get below the watery bed you will have the water pouring in, and may, perhaps, at once need a special engine to raise it. But if you can get down to some water-tight bed, and then put in a water-tight lining, then the water in the watery beds above will circulate round the shaft, but will not enter it, and the water may rise in the beds even to the surface, and thus escape. This would constitute a length of tubbing. In case you have no very considerable depth, yet the strata yield a large quantity of water, there is a considerable advantage gained if you can keep out the water by such means, and thus dispense with pumping arrangements. Having fixed this length the sinking can be continued, and if there be another watery seam a second length of tubbing may be put in, reaching to water-tight beds below. It may give more substantiality to the whole, and at the same time keep out other small quantities of water, if one length of tubbing is run up to the one above, so as to form one continuous length. After this you may come down into the coal measures, and there find another water-bearing bed, it may be sandstone loose in the grain, or greatly fissured and jointed; this you must sink through as best you can till you get down to an impervious bed, such as shale, where another length of tubbing can be introduced. In this manner you get your shaft down to the seam you wish to work, and under suitable conditions of strata, and proper precautions as to tubbing, this may be worked quite dry, although a series of difficulties has been met with in the upper ground. Mr. Potter, one of the viewers of the North of England, has given an admirable description of the sinking of the Merton pits in the Transactions of the Northern Institute of Mining Engineers. Many of the pits in the neighbourhood, after passing through the magnesian limestone, came at a depth of 50 to 75 fms. on a bed of sand, called the Lower Red Sandstone, which is apt to be extremely loose in places, and contains so much water as to be extremely fluid—in fact, a quicksand, and only to be managed with very great difficulty. Yet these difficulties have been overcome, they have withstood the quicksand, and the pits below are now worked dry. Another example of watery strata is to be found in the cretaceous beds of Belgium and North France, where the chalks and marls have been much fissured; but tubbing has been put down to the *tourta* below, which is an impervious bed, and thus these pits are worked dry. At the Merton pits, mentioned above, the sand was cut at a depth of about 75 fms., and the quantity of water cut on reaching these beds was such that several sets of 19-inch pumps were put in, and for a long time 3582 gallons of water were raised per minute. This was quite insufficient, and more engines and pumps were erected, giving a total of 450-horse power engaged in the pumping. Before they succeeded in getting the water down for the purpose of putting in permanent tubbing a total of no less than 1584-horse power was at work in divers engines. After this it need not surprise us to find the expense of the plant and sinking of a colliery of this kind amount to from 50,000l. to 100,000l., and even upwards. And it will also be seen that it would be impossible

to work these mines economically without some such plan as tubbing being employed.

As regards the materials employed for tubbing we find brick and stone (generally put in with hydraulic mortar or Roman cement), wood, wrought-iron, and cast-iron. The form is in most instances circular with brick and stone, often rectangular, and in the case of wood, more especially on the Continent, may be polygonal. Before the kind and strength of tubbing for any particular case can be determined it is not enough for the mining engineer to make himself acquainted with the work generally, but he should examine any cases in the district which will throw light on the subject as to the depth at which the enemy is likely to be met with, and the quantity of water that may be likely to appear, for in some cases you might have the shaft acting as an Artesian well, or the water might reach the tubbing with a very great pressure, and you would, therefore, require special protection. The deeper you go down with any of these heads of water the stronger is the tubbing required, so that the tubbing will be tapered, as it is called—that is, it will increase in thickness downwards. Tubbing in masonry, although sometimes used in the midland districts, is not often carried out in this country, where the quantity of water is likely to be considerable, but in Westphalia and other districts a good deal of brickwork has been put in rectangular pits, with an arch on each side of the rectangle. A great many of these have failed, sometimes owing to the want of sufficient thickness, sometimes probably to the porosity of the brick, and in other cases from a settlement of the walling, causing cracks to take place. In some parts of Westphalia two, three, and four bricks thick have very commonly been put in where the pressure is considerable. In such cases great care has to be taken about getting a suitable foundation; the bed for the curb has to be very carefully cut, and every space wedged up, to prevent leakage. Little need be said about the tubbing of rectangular shafts with wood; as already mentioned, after the frames are brought together they may be caulked, and this method then serves to keep out a considerable quantity of water, but still it will not stand against any considerable pressure. In some districts it has been sought to strengthen it by putting in additional planks, slid into notches cut into vertical posts, and then stuffing the back with tightly packed moss. In the collieries of the North of England, at the end of the last century, a good many shafts were fitted with "plank tubbing." A broad curb, generally of segments of oak, is placed on a carefully cut bed, and at intervals above it are placed other and generally lighter curbs, supported temporarily by props. An enlargement of the shaft is made for the lower curb, and the space at the back of it is carefully filled up. As soon as a third curb is got into its place planks are spiked on all round the shaft. For the purpose of protecting the vital point—the junction of the lower curb with the bed—a second and lighter curb is often put in these in front, with usually lighter planking, against which the ropes, &c., may rub. Rising in this manner to the upper end of the difficult ground, the whole is secured by putting in another broad wedging curb at the top, projecting into the ground. The most difficult part to secure is the lower wedging curb, thin sheeting deal should be placed in the joints between the segments, and the space at the back also driven full of wedges, to bring the segments together; then the vertical joints should be opened, and wedges (generally of carefully cut pitch pine) driven in. This tubbing has sometimes given way, from the spikes being corroded by the water, or by the action of the smoke and gases from the furnace; or the planks gave way before a great pressure of water, and the mine was inundated. Copper spikes were used with better effect, but it was thought a great improvement when another form of tubbing, with strong blocks of wood, was introduced. This was used in a very few cases in the North of England, but it is largely used in the polygonal shafts of Belgium and France. In these two wedging curbs are often used, the upper one being much the broader; behind this latter a board is placed, and the space behind the board packed full of moss. Then by means of wedges the board is driven back, so as to compress the moss, and after it has been driven back some distance the wedges are taken out, inserted with the broad end downwards, and then other wedges driven in between. By this means the moss is considerably compressed, and a good water-tight joint is secured. Above this a second or third curb will be put in where difficulty is expected. Then above these are built up the solid blocks of wood, the vertical joints coinciding, but not the horizontal, and at the top another wedging curb is put in.

In England the methods of wooden tubbing have been very much replaced by cast-iron tubbing. In the first instance it was attempted to introduce entire rings of iron, but with deep shafts there were two serious objections—that the entire shaft had to be opened to get the ring down, and that when anything was wrong it was very difficult to carry out the repairs, so that very soon the use of segments became general. These segments were put in with flanges abutting against each other; these flanges were placed inside, for the greater convenience of securing the segments by bolts through them. But in consequence of the lowering the fixing and the side pressures to which the tubbing was exposed, it was found that screw bolts could not be trusted to. Hence it was proposed by Mr. Buddle to carry these down in a different way, to put the flanges outside, and trust to the wedging, to friction, and to the pressure from the sides to keep the segments together. The method of putting in this tubbing is very similar to that for putting in the solid blocks of tubbing of the Belgian method. One, two, or three wedging curbs are put in, and the space at the back filled with wedges; the vertical joints are lined with deal, and well wedged up. The tubbing is built up of plates, or segments,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. thick; as the strength increases the plates are made shorter, from 1 ft. in the strongest part to 3 ft. in the upper portions. These segments are strengthened by flanges, and in the centre of each plate is a small hole for the escape of air and water during the building; these holes are plugged up from below when the tubbing is complete. When all is built up the final wedging is carried out by driving in wedges as long as the grain of wood between the joints can be opened with a chisel. When all due precautions are taken we may rely on the water being shut out. Curious accidents have occurred, those due to the pressure of air or gas being most notable. Air left behind with the water, or gas given off from some of the seams, has been so compressed as to make its way through joints impervious to water, and to blow out the wedges even. Care is taken, therefore, in a long length of tubbing to put in a long pipe from behind the

tubbing up to the surface, to enable the gas to escape, and in some cases pipes have been similarly put in for relieving the pressure of the water.

### DRAINAGE OF THE TAFF VALE DISTRICT.

An interesting paper on this subject, by Mr. ALEXANDER BASSETT, M.I.C.E., was taken as read at the last meeting of the South Wales Institute of Engineers, and by the courtesy of the author we are now enabled to subjoin an abstract of its contents. In considering the question, Mr. Bassett discusses, first, the necessity for the adoption of special provisions for drainage, then the best mode of disposing of sewage waters, and lastly the cost of works and the best mode of raising the capital required. The Taff Valley has practically four divisions—the main valley, extending from Cardiff to Merthyr; the Aberdare Valley, extending from Aberdare Junction to Aberdare; the Rhondda-Fawr Valley, extending from Pontypridd to Treherbert; and the Rhondda-Fach Valley, extending from Porth Junction to Ferndale. The length of the undrained valleys or districts, taking Treherbert as the centre point, may be taken at 29 miles, including 6 miles from Pontypridd to Mountain Ash through a thinly-populated district, but if the drainage of Aberdare, Pontypridd, and the Rhondda Valleys is to be conveyed to the sea the total length of main sewer will be about 40 miles. The district includes 18,700 houses, with a population in 1876 of 117,300. The death rate is very high as compared with the average of the kingdom, and the importance of drainage was proved at Merthyr, where, previous to the introduction of sanitary measures, the death rate was 37 per 1000; this has been gradually reduced as the improvements have been made, until last year the average was but 21 per 1000.

As to disposing of the sewage waters, Mr. Bassett remarks that whether it be taken to the sea or be employed as a fertilising agent it must, in order to preserve the health of the district, be collected and carried away by culverts or pipes, so as not to pollute springs or river water, as the original cause of the outbreaks of fever that have taken place in the district has in almost every instance been traced to the use of polluted water. The rapid inclination of the valleys towards the sea will enable the sewage to be taken down by gravitation, which is in point of economy a very important feature, thereby dispensing with the costly machinery required for lifting the waters, which expedient has to be resorted to in many districts. The inclination being so very great, the velocity is thereby greatly increased, admitting economy being exercised by the adoption of a reduced area of culvert for the discharge of the required volume. The scheme is not suggested as a commercial undertaking, from which substantial profits will be obtained, but purely as a stern necessity, arising out of existing circumstances, in order to secure as far as possible the highest standard of health in the most important mining district in the country. Still if by any legitimate and safe means a revenue can be realised, any suggestions bearing upon the subject deserve consideration. He points out where the water can be employed as a fertilising agent—between the Rumney river and Marshfield. The improvement and utilisation of this land was first proposed by Mr. Bassett in 1871.

It would be rather hazardous, as Mr. Bassett suggests, to estimate the cost of works before sections are taken; roughly, however, he considers that the works connected with the main sewers (40 miles) ought efficiently to be executed for about 85,000l. exclusive of only legal expenses, and compensation to be paid to owners of property. As regards the mode of raising the capital, he remarks that no doubt the amount could be obtained from insurance or other companies, provided the payment of the interest were secured by rates levied for that purpose under the powers of an Act of Parliament. The most equitable way of adjusting the payment would be for the Aberdare district to construct the sewer from that town to the junction at Treherbert, and the Pontypridd and Rhondda districts the sewer from Treherbert and Ferndale to that point of junction. From Treherbert to the sea the main sewer would be used jointly. Taking the total cost at 100,000l., he calculates that if the capital be raised at 4l. 2s. 6d. per cent. per annum, and to be repaid after a fixed number of years, the annual charge would be under 4s. 1d. per house, but as this would, of course, be based on rateable value, it would not exceed 2s. 6d. or 3s. on each cottage. He has made provision in his scheme for a large increase in the production. The quantity of sewage water to be discharge per 24 hours has been estimated at 30 gallons per head of the present population. The culverts proposed will be capable of discharging this quantity in from five to six hours. It is quite clear that as the district is being developed, and the land occupied for building, every years delay will add to the cost of carrying the project into effect.

### NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE MINING INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting of members was held on Monday, at Stoke-upon-Trent. The chair was taken by Mr. C. J. HOMER, the president for the past year.

Mr. JAMES ASHWORTH, of Burslem, exhibited various mining appliances of a useful character, including an Ingersoll rock-drill, which, since it was introduced in 1871, has been improved, and is now regarded to be perfected. It will bore in any conceivable position, and in any kind of stone, hard or soft. It is portable, effective in action, and its feed is strictly automatic, so that skilled labourers are not necessary to direct it. Mr. Ashworth also showed one of Maedermott's hand drills, and a model of Dillwyn Smith's mechanical stoker for steam-boilers, as well as several cases of powder of different grains. Messrs. John Davis and Snow, Derby, showed a number of scientific instruments, including an improved Hedley dial, which "combines all the latest improvements of the best Hedley, with the outside vernier of the theodolite." The Walsall Rubber Company had a collection of useful articles, including a lamp, to which is attached an apparatus by which the wick can be lighted by turning a handle forming part of the lamp. It can be used for ordinary gas lamps, but it is particularly adapted for lamps to use at pit heads or at pit bottoms. They also exhibited some mine lamps, to which is attached the Automatic Company's patent for lighting without the use of matches. Each lamp can also be extinguished by a wirework from the outside. One of the lamps is so constructed that a miner cannot open it without extinguishing the light.

An important paper was read by Mr. John Williamson, manager of the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company's collieries at Hednesford, on "Fan & Furnace Ventilation," in the course of which he stated that up to July, 1874, the Cannock and Rugeley pits were ventilated by furnace, and he gave a summary of the duty effected, adding that the consumption of coal for fourteen days, 70 tons, gave 467 lbs. of coal per hour, equal to nearly 18 lbs. per horse-power per hour. Considering the large consumption of fuel and other objectionable circumstances, the company decided to fix a Guibal fan, and sink a 16-ft. diameter shaft for an up-cast. The fan has been in use since July, 1874, there being now two down-cast shafts, each 12-ft. diameter, and one up-cast shaft 16-ft. diameter. The fan is 40-ft. diameter by 12-ft. wide, and is fixed in the surface at a distance of 50 yards from the top of the shaft. A 36-in. cylinder engine with 3-ft. stroke attached direct, works the fan, and there is a duplicate engine of the same size. A drift is turned out of the up-cast shaft at 18 yards from the shaft top, and is continued to the fan, of the same area as the shaft. After describing the method of preventing the leakage of air when the cages are drawn up, Mr. Williamson said:—"To keep a sufficient quantity of air circulating in the mines the fan has to make 35 revolutions per minute, and gives 190,000 cubic feet with 15 water gauge, and we get 60½ effective horse-power from the engine; then taking the quantity of air and the water gauge, we get about 44 horse-power or 66 per cent. of useful effect, the consumption of coal being 11 lbs. per horse-power per hour, and 7½ lbs. less than the furnace. The fan has made 50 revolutions per minute, with 31-10ths water gauge. At the bottom of each down-cast shaft the air is split into four sections, and carried into the workings for some distance before any more splits are made, and each main split has its own return to the bottom of the up-cast shaft. I find we get the greatest quantity of air with a low



barometer pressure, the barometer reading 28.30, and thermometer 40° on the surface, wind W.N.W. The least quantity we have got was on a thick foggy day, with the barometer standing at 29.60, and thermometer 40°, wind S.E., the fan making 35 revolutions per minute on each occasion. But by having a good counter and water gauge the engine man, by slightly varying the speed, can keep a uniform quantity of air passing through the mine. Every fan ought to be supplied with a duplicate engine, always ready for work in case the working engine should become disabled or otherwise, because it must be borne in mind that the quantity of air passing through the mine is greatly diminished soon after the fan stops. From experiments I have made, I find that an hour after the fan has been stopped the quantity of air is 71 per cent. below the quantity got when the fan is at work, and giving 86,000 cubic feet per minute. At the end of two hours after the stoppage of the fan the quantity of air is reduced 81 per cent., and at the end of three, four, five and six hours after the fan has been stopped the loss of air remains at 81 per cent., the thermometer in the intake reading 58°, and in the return 63°, the depths of downcast and upcast shafts being 347 yards. The quantity of air circulating in the mine after the stoppage of the fan will depend on the difference of temperature between the intake and return airways. It should also be contrived that where fans are used there should be a large surplus of power ready for any emergency which might arise. Where this is done complete control will be obtained over the ventilation of mines, and where steam-pipes are used in the upcast shaft, a steam-jet could be easily applied during any unforeseen stoppage of the fan. It has been said that the question of cost for ventilating mines properly ought not to be a consideration if the Coal Mines Act of 1872 is properly carried out. I believe this principle has been acted on at many collieries, and there can be no doubt if there were more fans, with good reliable engines, good shafts, good airways, and the air properly distributed through the mines, and more attention paid to the ventilation, the gases drawn out of the mines not being allowed to accumulate in large quantities, we should not hear so much about explosions caused by shot firing. It is thought by some that we ought to have more comprehensive legislative enactments to prevent accidents taking place in or about mines; but provision is made by the Act of 1872 to enable employer and employee to do everything which is necessary, so far as human foresight goes, to prevent accidents occurring. Let the frequent violation of the general and special rules be avoided, and the number of accidents will be greatly diminished. I question whether there is anything better than a properly constructed fan for sweeping the underground workings and clearing the pits of foul air. With carefully revised data these appliances can be erected at a minimum of cost, proving in every respect economical, and still having such a reserve of ventilating power as to meet any contingency of falls in the airways, sudden outbursts of gas, or low barometer pressure.

Mr. Chambers, of Barnsley, next read a paper on Chambers and Jones's patent equilibrium slide valve, for which he received thanks. The scrutineers (Messrs. G. Menzies and J. P. Goodall) reported the result of the balloting for officers as follows:—President, Mr. Daniel Adamson, Hyde Junction; vice-presidents, Messrs. G. Hunter, J. Macdonald, and T. S. Wilkinson; treasurer, Mr. J. G. Bakewell; secretary, Mr. W. Wells, Bladen; council, Messrs. J. Ashworth, G. Barker, R. Clive, Joseph Cox, T. M. Goddard, J. R. Haines, R. Heath, J. Lucas, J. Strick, John Salt, F. Silvester, and Benjamin Woodworth. The newly-elected president, on taking the chair, delivered a lengthy and able address. After the business of the meeting the annual dinner took place at the North Stafford Hotel.

**BRISTOL MINING SCHOOL.**—It is the practice of this school to devote one day per week to outdoor study, and the managers hope for the future to enlist the co-operation of the practical men of the neighbourhood, so far as to induce them to give the students the benefit of their local knowledge and experience. This plan was commenced on Tuesday at the Kingswood Collieries, when owing to the good offices of Mr. Handel Cosham, one of the mine officers, explained to the students the very complete coal washing arrangements that have been recently erected at these works.

**PRECIOUS STONES IN BRAZIL.**—A valuable paper on the "Valley of the Tibagy, Brazil," by Mr. Thomas P. Bigg Wither, A.I.C.E., was read before the Royal Geographical Society on Monday, and we think some portions of it will be of considerable interest to our readers. Mr. Wither visited the valley in 1874, when engaged in surveying for a line of railway. In the immediate vicinity of the Tibagy, he informs us, there are large deposits of clays and gravels, in which latter diamonds were first discovered about 30 years ago, and it was this discovery that led to the formation of the present town, which, though the diamond mines are now no longer worked, still gives evidence of prosperity. The working of these diamond mines was abandoned some four years ago, not on account of their exhaustion, but because the depth which the diamond-yielding stratum had then reached below the surface made their further operations no longer profitable with the limited resources at the disposal of those interested. Statistics obtained on the spot, and verified where possible from independent sources, and a careful examination of the mine itself, convinced Mr. Wither that though abandoned for the present it is yet capable of being worked with exceedingly profitable results. On resuming his journey from St. Jeronimo, and having passed the river of that name, Mr. Wither found that the geological formation underwent a change. In the place of sandstones and porphyries a reddish-brown amygdaloid rock, with its numerous little cavities lined with the green mineral chlorite, forms the body of the hills, and continues to be the dominant formation down to a point some distance below Jatahy, whence down to the Parapanema sandstone, split up in all directions by dykes and large masses of greenstone, again takes possession. This amygdaloid formation extends in a south-westerly direction as far as the Jvaby Valley, where it assumes a somewhat different character, the cavities in its substance increasing greatly in size, and often containing agates of 4 and 5 ft. in diameter, which, when broken open, are found to be lined with brilliant and well-formed crystals of amethyst, and other varieties of quartz. These are the stones which some 250 years ago raised great expectations amongst the inhabitants of the province, a great number of them having been found in the bed of the Jvaby river by a party of so-called explorers (Mr. Wither said they were in reality slave-hunters), and by them mistaken for sapphires.

**UNDERGROUND PUMPING-ENGINES.**—At the Society of Engineers meeting, on Monday, in the Society's Hall, Westminster Chambers (Mr. V. Pendred, President, in the chair), a paper by Mr. Henry Davey, "On the Underground Pumping Machinery at the Erin Colliery, Westphalia," was read. The paper described what is probably the largest example of underground pumping-engines extant. The system, which was originated by the author, may be thus briefly described. In the mine (which is 1200 ft. deep) 920 ft. from the surface is placed a pair of compound differential pumping-engines, capable of raising 1400 gallons per minute to the surface, at the same time supplying power through the medium of the rising column to two differential hydraulic pumping-engines placed at bottom of the mine, and employed in lifting 1000 gallons per minute to the main engines. Steam is carried down to the main engines from the surface at a pressure of 70 lbs. per square inch. After passing through the engines it is condensed, and a vacuum of from 24 to 26 inches of mercury is obtained by means of a separate condenser, which produces at once the vacuum on the engine, and enables it to start to work against the full column. The methods employed for actuating the valves in the steam and hydraulic engines were also fully shown. In the latter case the valves are worked without any metallic connections by means of a modification of the differential gear. The paper was illustrated by detail drawings of the steam and hydraulic engines, and also of the separate condenser, as well as by working models of the machinery. At the last monthly meeting of the Society of Engineers the following gentlemen were elected as members:—Messrs. Henry Clayton, Jun., Francis Howlett, J. G. C. Ulrich, A. F. H. Plambeck, Frank Darkin, R. B. Austin, J.

Bennett, F. S. Manners, J. T. Hall, S. Allen, Carl Pieper, and C. E. Bainbridge. As associates, Messrs. C. de Pass, M. Mildred, and W. S. Wilkins.]

#### THE IRON TRADE OF GERMANY.

As a supplement to the notes which we published in the Journal of June 3, it will be interesting to glean a few further particulars on this subject from a valuable report on the trade and commerce of the Rhenish provinces in 1875, which has been sent home by Mr. Crowe, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Düsseldorf. The iron trade was no better in 1875 than in 1874, and the depression was so great at the close of December that the most gloomy prophecies seemed justified. A brief study of statistics, however, may tend to dispel some of this despondency.

**IRON ORE.**—The number of mines in Germany, including Alsace and Lorraine, was 1228 in 1871, and 1588 in 1874. The produce was 4,000,000 tons in the former year, and after rising to 6,000,000 tons in 1873, it fell back to the same figure in 1874. The imports and exports of ore were, in round numbers—

	Imports.	Exports.
1871	270,000	517,000
1873	460,000	104,000
1874	245,000	216,352
1875	255,000	509,000

The value of iron ore produced in Prussia is estimated to have fallen from 1,500,000*l.* in 1873, to 1,000,000*l.* in 1874.

**PIG-IRON.**—The blast furnaces of Germany were 306 in number in 1871, and 475 in 1875; of which 70 were out of blast in 1873, and 104 in 1874, while it will probably be found that more still were blown out in 1875. The total production of pig-iron in Germany was 1,500,000 tons in 1871, 1,750,000 tons in 1872, 2,250,000 tons in 1873, and 1,750,000 tons in 1874. The imports of pig-iron rose from 500,000 tons in 1871 to 700,000 tons in 1873, and fell back to 130,000 tons in 1875. It may be mentioned that most of the pig imported is casting iron pig. Consul-General Crowe furnishes a detailed table of the prices which ruled at the Düsseldorf Exchange during each quarter of 1875.

**RAW STEEL.**—German production of raw steel rose from 200,000 tons in 1871 to 335,000 in 1874. In that year 54 per cent. of the steel produced was made in Bessemer furnaces.

**RAILS.**—The rolling mills of Germany turned out 450,000 tons of rails in 1871, and 645,000 tons in 1874. The imports never exceeded 45,000 tons, the exports 80,000 tons. Consul-General Crowe says that it is calculated that German railways—in length somewhat over 15,000 miles—require a yearly supply of rails of about 460,000 tons.

**ANGLE IRON.**—The production of Germany was 60,000 tons in 1871, and 95,000 tons in 1874. The imports were 6000 tons and 8500 tons in those years, while the exports rose from 355 tons in the former year to 5000 tons in the latter.

**ROD, TYRES, PLATES, &c., OF IRON AND STEEL.**—In this branch German works turned out 627,893 tons in 1871, and 743,250 tons in 1874; the imports in the same years being 29,439 tons and 26,875 tons, and in 1875 20,000 tons. The exports were 10,000 tons in 1871, and 37,000 tons in 1874.

**IRON AND STEEL WIRE.**—The same increase of production is apparent in this as in other branches—66,000 in 1871, and 85,000 tons in 1874. Imports increased in a somewhat similar proportion, from 1200 tons to 2000 tons, the exports rising at the same time from 6000 to 10,000 tons.

**CAST-IRON WARES.**—342,657 tons of these were made in German mills in 1871, and 480,000 tons in 1874. The import was 15,000 and 20,000 tons in each of these years respectively.

Consul-General Crowe considers that, closely examined, these statistics show that makers of pig-iron completely overstocked the market of Germany in 1873, and were forced in 1874 to the comparative inactivity which continued throughout 1875. Subsidiary to this we note diminished imports of ore and pig; but the production of raw steel, rails, angle-iron, rod, tyres, plates, wire, and cast-iron wares was higher in 1874 than in previous years, higher, too, in 1875 than in 1874, whilst imports of all classes of large hardware, except angle-iron and wire, were gradually and steadily decreasing.

A word, in conclusion, as to the effect of the slackness in the iron trade and a general reduction of industrial wages on the labouring classes of the country. Notwithstanding these, Her Majesty's Consul-General finds that the country districts still complain of want of hands. Statistics show that more than 5000 persons wandered from Eastern Prussia to the Rhenish provinces and Westphalia in 1873 and 1874. This current of migration is explained by the high demand for wages of male and female labourers and farm servants in the Palatinate and the valley of the Lower Rhine.

#### THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE MINES DRAINAGE DIFFICULTY.

Communications from two of the leading mining and ironmaking concerns in the Bilston district of South Staffordshire show how serious is the position in which the Mines Drainage scheme is now found. Mr. DANIEL GROUETT (of Messrs. GROUETT and SONS, iron and coal masters of Bilston), whose letter was read at a meeting of the Bilston coalowners, held recently at the offices of the Mines Drainage Commissioners, in Wolverhampton, when it was resolved to recommend the Commissioners to levy no rate for the year ensuing, setting out dangers that were likely to follow the suspension of the work, has further communicated to the local papers; this time combating the sentiments expressed by Mr. ABRAHAM HILL, the coalmaster who lead the opposition. Concurrently Mr. JOHN W. SPARROW, ironmaster and colliery owner of the same district, publishes his views. The deductions at which these gentlemen arrive have the gravest possible aspect in respect to the coal and iron industries throughout the busiest localities in the South Staffordshire field. Broadly stated these gentlemen assert that to stop the work of the Commissioners by declining to contribute to the expenses will lead to the loss of 5,000,000 tons of coal, and the closing of many ironworks. Setting down the value of the coal at 8s. per ton, to leave it underground would be the abandoning of that which in the market would realise 2,000,000*l.* sterling, or if that sum should be capitalised at 5 per cent. we have a loss in perpetuity of 100,000*l.* per annum. If it should be thought that though the work may be abandoned for a time during the low price of fuel it could well be taken up when coal is worth much more money, the reply is that the work of the Commissioners abandoned now will be forever abandoned, inasmuch as the water would then rise to so great a height that to get it down again would involve a work which no one would have courage enough to attack. If the engines which are now pumping should be stopped it is generally admitted that the water would rise at once up to the new mine coal, drowning out each colliery as far as the New Mine coal hollows extend. In its rise 22 collieries, which are now at work, would be drowned out.

Here is a result serious enough in all conscience to cause alarm. It would seem to cause no alarm to the majority at the meeting when the resolution to recommend the cessation of work was determined upon, but it is explained that that majority have very small interests in comparison with the minority; indeed that they are but one-third of the whole, estimating them by the property which they have at stake. We do not care here to go into the question of the circumstances under which the minority in value are working the mines in their hands, nor are we prepared to join in any outcry about the want of patriotism which they are showing in attempting to stop the commissioners in their work. There is always something to be said on both sides. It is so here. These men assert that if they should have to pay a sixpenny rate they could not sell their coal at other than a serious loss. Such being their views they are proceeding only according to the tenor of the Act when they try to detach their district from the area over which the Commissioners have jurisdiction. It should, however, be considered by them whether their business interests are likely to be so largely affected as they assume. If they can get the mines which they are working without being compelled to pump, or requiring other people to pump for them, the Commissioners have no powers by whose enforcement they can compel them to pay anything whatever

towards the drainage of the district. And if these people can show that by their own pumping they contribute either to their own relief or to the relief of their neighbours their rates would be proportionately reduced. But if any of them should think that though they are working shallow seams, and are thereby contributing to the letting down of water to mines in the deep, yet that by escaping from the rate altogether they shall be able to lay upon others the whole of a burden which they ought themselves in part to bear, every principle of fairness should lead them to pause before, in their attempt to escape responsibilities which are perfectly fair, they risk consequences which will speedily ruin others, and which in due time will assuredly find them out. The working of the Act, as we have sketched it, is equitable; and even if it were possible that if the Act should cease to operate the water would not rise to the height indicated, no colliery worker could, we think, drain his mine at less than 6d. per ton in such a broken district as that about Bilston. We are inclined to hope that a careful consideration of the facts, and a complete knowledge of the way in which the rates could be graduated may induce these people to withdraw their opposition, and attempt, certainly for another year, to uphold the hands of the Commissioners.

We are the more wishful that this may be so because it is shown how, by the continued working of the engines now pumping, a course may be practicable by which coal and ironstone now submerged may speedily be unwatered. Mr. SPARROW says—"Nothing can be more plain than this, that the five engines would still continue to pump the whole of the water if a connection was made in the blue flats instead of the new mine, and if this was done the pound of water between the flats and the new mine would disappear without one farthing of extra cost, and would immediately liberate an enormous quantity of lower mines. The first step to be taken to accomplish so desirable an object would be to pierce the rib in the flats between Sandy Gay and Barber's Field pounds. This may be done at a trifling expense, and may be done as soon as the Sandy Gay engines are again at blast." The objectors, if they intend to avail themselves of this proposed benefit, must not delay the withdrawal of their opposition. Mr. SPARROW is working at a cost of 80*l.* per week, borne almost wholly by himself, two of these five engines (the Stowheath and the Bilston), and they are doing work which seems almost necessary to the preventing of the catastrophe foreshadowed. At the close of last year Mr. SPARROW said that he could not continue to pump at this enormous cost unless colliery owners who were benefited by what he was doing contributed to the outlay. A meeting, reported in the Journal at the time, was held, and promises were forthcoming, but those promises have been fulfilled in only a slight degree. Mr. SPARROW has now served a legal notice upon the secretary to the Mines Drainage Commissioners that his firm have made up their minds to stop the Stowheath and Bilston pumps on Saturday, July 1 next. We have the personal assurance of Mr. SPARROW that he does not intend this as a mere ruse; that he shall certainly carry out the notice if, as now, he is then left practically unaided. And we may state that to stop the Stowheath engine, which is pumping 1400 gallons of water per minute, will be to stop the Bilston engine, which is pumping 500 gallons, and the Sandy Gay engines, which are pumping 700 gallons. It would not be fair, however, to leave on the minds of our readers the impression that all the difficulties which now threaten this Bilston district would be overcome, even if the smaller colliery workers should consent to pay what may fairly be claimed under a sixpenny rate. As we pointed out a fortnight ago, such a rate will scarcely do one-half of that which it is necessary should be done if the district is to be freed from the water with which it is now contending. This, at the least, implies the carrying out in its entirety the scheme of voluntary aid which was agreed upon at the meeting in December last; or if not that, then the making of some other arrangement whereby voluntary aid may be forthcoming. Comparatively needy and wealthy men alike, interested in the working of the coal mines in South Staffordshire, must together put their shoulders to the wheel if this 5,000,000 tons of coal is to be saved, and all disasters prevented which its loss to such a district implies.

**ROYAL CORNWALL POLYTECHNIC SOCIETY.**—The prize list for the present session has just been issued, and many of the premiums offered are certainly worthy the attention of those engaged about mines; thus a premium is offered for improvements in pump valves for use in mines, and prizes are offered to workmen and apprentices for a complete set of models or drawings of all the various pump valves in use in mines, and of all the steam valves now or formerly used in the Cornish mining engines. There are also special premiums for ore-dressing machines, collections of ore, and for papers on the improved treatment of ores and minerals; for the most exact account of the phenomena of mineral veins in any mine or district, their dip direction, variations in productiveness, slides, heaves, &c., and for accurately drawn cross sections of Cornish. Mr. Kitto, the secretary, will forward the prize lists to intending competitors upon being applied to at the Society's Hall, Falmouth.

**FAILURE OF AN IRONMASTER—LIABILITIES 170,000*l.***—At the Bankruptcy Court, on Thursday, an application was made to Mr. Registrar Brougham (chief judge) for the appointment of a receiver to the estate of John Henry Garbutt, who has presented a petition for liquidation, describing himself of King William-street, and Doughty-street, London; of Darlington, Durham; and of the Newton Colliery, Castleford, Yorkshire, coalowner, and coal, coke, and iron merchant. Mr. J. D. Miller now applied for the appointment of Mr. G. E. Swithbank, accountant, Lawrence Pountney-lane, Cannon-street, as receiver of the estate. He said the petition for liquidation was filed on the 14th inst., the liabilities being estimated at 170,000*l.* The assets consisted of freehold land and buildings, the Newton Colliery, the Worthington Colliery, the Evenwood Colliery, movable plant, stock, household and office furniture, and book debts, bonds, and mortgages, estimated to amount to 50,000*l.* Actions had been commenced against the debtor in various divisions of the High Court, and it was important in the interest of the estate further proceedings should be stayed. The Registrar granted the application. The creditors are principally resident in Yorkshire and the mining districts.

**CAST FLANGED PIPES.**—The invention of Mr. S. ROBERTS, of West Bromwich, consists in making those parts of the moulds in which the flanges of the pipes and other flanged articles are cast by fixing on the core-bar, at the required distance apart, annular collars or rings of a hollow or trough form, the said collars having holes in them through which cores to form the holes in the cast flanges are inserted. A pattern is used having "prints," or broad collars, at its ends, the said "prints" of the pattern forming a cylindrical space at each end of the mould to receive the collars on the core-bar, and also to form those parts of the mould in which the flanges of the pipe are cast. The inner faces of the collars on the core-bar are coated with loam, and when the core-bar and its collars have been put in their places in the mould the cores in the said collars project into the flange parts of the mould, and after the mould-boxes have been fixed together, the mould is ready for the casting operation.

**MANUFACTURE OF CHROMATES.**—The invention of Mr. JOSEPH TOWNSEND, of Glasgow, has for its object to improve and render less costly the processes employed in making chromates, and consists essentially in using a mixture of lime and magnesia, or of their carbonates, in processes in which hitherto lime has been used alone, or along with other substances.

**NOVEL REGULATOR.**—Mr. W. F. STANLEY, of Great Turnstile, Holborn, has invented some ingenious machines or clocks to register conditions of the atmosphere and to keep correct time. These improvements have for object the ascertaining of the pressure and the temperature of the atmosphere, also of equalising these, so that a clock may go at a regular rate. The improvements are applied to the construction of the pendulum and to a method of calculating time, pressure, or temperature numerically. The novelties of this invention are—causing a barometer or thermometer to oscillate with a pendulum or as a pendulum, and of calculating time, tempe-



nature, or pressure by the oscillations instead of by the ordinary division into hours, degrees, or inches. All the improvements may be applied to one machine, except such parts as are equivalent one to the other; this will be necessary generally for meteorological observations, or any part may be applied separately to any kind of clock.

#### MINING AND STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Messrs. F. W. MANSELL and Co. (Sworn Stock and Share Brokers), Pinner's Hall, Old Broad-street, write to us as follows:—

**I.X.L. (Gold and Silver).**—Shareholders will have learnt with satisfaction that active operations have been resumed, and as the mines are provided with efficient pumping and other machinery the various explorations will soon be in course of vigorous prosecution. It should be remembered that the rich "bonanza" cut in one of the upper drifts some years since created an intense excitement upon the Pacific Coast, and that the 200 ft. level will quickly intersect this "bonanza" at this deeper point. When one bears in mind that the "bonanza" in the Virginia Consolidated upon the Comstock lode (in the same mineral belt) has proved continuously richer at each successive lower level, the importance of cutting the "bonanza" in the I.X.L. 200 ft. level cannot possibly be over estimated. Originally 10,000,000 was the amount considered abundant to purchase and erect the mill, and to place the mine in full working order; the company now have over 30,000,000, so that there are ample funds for every possible contingency, leaving a large sum for the establishment of a reserve fund.

**EXCHEQUER (Gold and Silver).**—Mr. Lewis Chalmers has returned from Peavine thoroughly satisfied with the O'Hara furnace and its special adaptability for the successful treatment of the Exchequer ore. It may be mentioned that this description of furnace has been for some time past in successful operation at the Consolidated Poe Mine, in Nevada. At this mine the ore is crushed through a 10-stamp dry battery, whence it is elevated continuously as it discharges from the battery to a large hopper, from which it feeds into the O'Hara Champion Chloridising Furnace. The ore is moved by mechanical arrangement through the flames for the space of 200 ft., and passes out on the cooling hearth, from which it is discharged regularly in the car, ready for the amalgamating pans. The furnace is a double one of two hearths, and is 110 ft. long, 4½ ft. wide, and 14 ft. high. The arches over the roasting hearths are 8 in. from the hearths, confining the heat directly to the ore. There is one fire chamber for the upper hearth and two for the lower hearth. The ore is moved by an endless chain with two iron frames, on which are fastened a series of ploughs so arranged that one is a little behind the other, so that each following plough turns the ore over into the furrow that the first one has made. The ore is turned to the right and then to the left every two minutes, and every time the ploughs pass through the ore it moves a few inches ahead. The ore moves in contact with the flames, and is heated up evenly and gradually until it reaches the first fire, when it falls to the lower hearth, where the heat increases, and is then moved back to the end of the furnace through the flames of the two fires, and after passing the last fire it is moved and turned over a space of 15 ft. on a cooling-hearth, and discharged into the car cool, ready for amalgamating. There are no chemicals used in the ore but chloride of sodium (common salt). When the ore gets under a low heat the sulphur commences to burn, the lead, antimony, zinc, iron, copper, and other base metals change to a sulphate, caused by the superheated steam laying through the flames and oxygen from the atmosphere. When the ore falls to the lower hearth the most of the base metals are oxidised, while the silver remains as a sulphate. Now, from 5 to 8 per cent. of salt is fed into the ore from a hopper that discharges about 1 lb. every time the ploughs pass along. The ore being under an increased heat, with the oxygen from the atmosphere mixing with the flame caused by the draught, and also superheated steam, causes chemical changes to take place, and thereby changes the silver and gold to a chloride. The sulphates decompose; the sulphur liberated unites with oxygen and hydrogen, creating sulphuric acid, which attacks the salt, decomposes it, and liberates the chlorine gas from the soda; silver, having a strong affinity for chlorine, takes up a portion, and is converted into a chloride of silver, which is easily amalgamated when brought in contact with mercury in an iron pan. We will next week draw further attention to this newly-introduced furnace, which seems destined to remove all difficulties in the successful treatment of rebellious ores. As far as the mine is concerned, every point of operation is proceeding satisfactorily; the engine-shaft is down 356 ft.; the north drift from the 200 is in 434 ft., and in fine quartz and clay mixed. The 140 ft. winze was again all ready for stopping; the 300 ft. level would be ready in a few days, as also the 200. The general developments continue most encouraging.

**EBERHARDT AND AURORA (Silver).**—The bullion (valued at 22,000,000) in transit to this country will, it is calculated, leave a profit of about 14,000,000. The respective "developments" at the mine are being pushed forward, and the indications in the bottom of the incline are very favourable. The site for the tunnel has been located, and a force of men are now in active work. The most approved machinery will be in position at a very early date, so that no time will be lost in continuing the tunnel through the bad weather of the ensuing winter. The North Aurora section of the property is yielding its usual quantity of high-grade ore. It is understood that as soon as the bullion now in transit arrives a dividend will at once be declared. Large transactions have taken place in the shares at advancing quotations, and close firmly at the highest point.

**WEST PATELEY BRIDGE LEAD MINES.**—The statutory meeting was held last week; the information obtained was completely satisfactory. Seldom or ever has it been our lot to visit a mine that within four months after the commencement of operations is returning mineral in paying quantities, one tribute point yielding a profit of something like 50 per cent. to the company. We have already mentioned that this property immediately adjoins the Pateley Bridge Mines, and contains its richest veins; that it is traversed by 12 masterly lodes, and possesses features for an economical and vigorous development unequalled by any mine even in this favourably situated locality. Drained by a main day level to a depth of nearly 60 fms., pumping machinery is unnecessary, and the ground available for stopping amounting to an enormous extent. Not being weighted with heavy capital, and the working costs necessarily small, a comparatively limited output of (say) not more than 50 tons per month will yield dividends equal in amount to the shareholders as 100 tons from a mine with what may be considered the prescriptive capital of lead mines. With but few exceptions our home lead mines have capitals averaging from 30,000,000 to 45,000,000, divided into 12,000 shares. To bring about a given result mines thus incorporated must necessarily return more than double the amount of lead than those with a capital of 20,000,000, divided into 4,000, which is the financial constitution of the West Pateley Bridge Lead Mines Company. It is not too much to say that inordinate capital has done more harm to mining than anything else, and it is pleasing to find that, as in this case, a judicious step has been taken in the opposite direction. Not infrequently is a productive mine made profligate to its shareholders by heaviness of capital, large returns failing to yield divisible profits, the capital being out of all proportion to the dividend-yielding capacity of the mine. If mines were introduced upon an equitable basis as between shareholders and former owners, results would invariably be much more satisfactory. Upon this fundamentally sound principle the West Pateley Bridge Lead Mines Company has been formed; hence there has been contributed an almost exceptional element towards increasing the shareholders' prosperity, because the efficient development of the property has been the more completely secured. When upon the mines last week we made it our special business to glean from all available sources every tittle of information obtainable; and while setting apart the extraordinary statements made to us as to the riches the mines yielded when worked some 70 years since, throughout the whole there is a substratum of facts, which can be otherwise corroborated, showing that great riches were realised, although the operations were con-

ducted in the most primitive manner, and under the most difficult circumstances. The enormous surface excavations upon the Rake vein for half a mile in length and many fathoms in width, coupled with the debris on the surface, demonstrate that many thousands of tons of lead must have been extracted from this single lode. The ancients worked as deep as water would allow them, leaving the vein in the sole of the excavation as rich as at any previous point. Its masterly character is further shown by the fact that in Pateley Bridge Mines it has three distinct ribs of solid lead, valued at 2000, per fathom. This is only one of 12 known rich veins which will be quickly and inexpensively tapped by means of the main day level at a depth of nearly 60 fms. from surface. One of the important points to be almost immediately determined is the cutting of the Craven Cross vein; hitherto this has never been touched except it has been exceedingly rich, and it is reported to have gone down from near the surface containing solid lead 1 yard in thickness. Surely these are facts fortifying the miners' statement in the locality, that "Tis the very best trial in the district." Since the meeting the shares have been required for at full quotations.

**PATELEY BRIDGE LEAD MINES AND SMELTING COMPANY.**—The various explorations in depth continue to open out good courses of ore. The Lamb vein is worth 13½ per fathom; Fielding's vein, in the east cross-cut, is worth 18½ per fathom; in the roof, 17½; and in the south-east end, 12½ per fathom. Pringap vein is producing good lead ore. The Sun vein, in Gillfield level, continues to gradually improve in the east driftage from the bottom of the shaft, where, under the level, it is 4 ft. 6 in. in width, worth from 15 to 16½ per fathom for lead ore. The vein in the stope over this level is 6 ft. wide, worth 18½ per fathom. Smelting will be resumed next week.

**STOCK EXCHANGE GENERAL MARKETS.**—The adjustment of the fortnightly settlement has been the prominent feature of the week, more importance having been attached to it in consequence of the eager response the markets had previously made to what was the obvious intention of the statement regarding prospects in the East made by the Prime Minister. The tone of the statement was evidently designed to lull suspicion to sleep, and to give occasion for the comfortable assurance that diplomacy may yet succeed in smoothing away the difficulties that have threatened the peace of Europe. Without too narrow an investigation of the precise terms in which the Prime Minister sought to convey this announcement, operators and speculators hailed the unquestionable fact that the English Government desires it to be concluded that they regard the situation with hopefulness; and, after the alarms and apprehensions that have been of late, it was natural that this alone should have had an appreciable effect in the sensitive atmosphere of the Stock Exchange. There has been a decided rally in those securities that have lately suffered the greatest depreciation, as operators for the fall who had been large sellers rushed to close their accounts. Money continues very abundant, and the tendency towards greater ease is unmistakable. The Bank of England directors made no change in the discount rate at their meeting on Thursday, and it is scarcely necessary to add none was expected. The exceptionally strong position of the Bank has become considerably stronger, the stock of bullion having increased to over 27,500,000. It appears as if the largest amount recorded to have been ever held by the Bank is likely to be soon exceeded. The proportion of assets to liabilities has advanced during the week more than 3 per cent.—in other words, from 50½ to 53½. The Bank rate continues at 2 per cent.; the next settling day will be June 29.

**RAILWAYS.**—This market has been firm, stimulated in a degree by the rumour that the Select Committee now sitting will recommend some modification of the passenger tax, but, if true, how it has been permitted to leak out is most difficult to understand. Naturally, the short distance passenger lines were more cheerful under the influence of the news, and as usual any benefit to be derived from a reduction or removal of the tax is likely to be "well discounted" before being officially announced. The condition of the "account" showed that the speculations for the fall had been considerable, and this was borne out by the premium paid to avoid delivery.

**FOREIGN BONDS.**—Russian bonds have been the first to respond to the improvement, and Egyptians followed the lead. The persistent sales of Russian bonds must have let loose a good deal of money which is likely to seek employment in Government securities. The supply of two or three descriptions at the settlement was short, and speculative sellers were obliged to pay heavily to defer delivery. In Argentine as much as 3 per cent. was paid, being at the rate of over 70 per cent. per annum, while for several of the Russian issues ½ to ¾ per cent. was the current rate. It is hardly necessary to say that there is no home investment demand, but from Berlin some orders continue to come for Russia, which are still being sold in small parcels by timorous holders here. Since the settlement there has not been much animation in this department, but purchases have been made of Egyptian and Russian on continental account. An intimation of a probable payment to the holders of Uruguayan bonds exercised a stimulating influence on this stock. Peruvian flatter; the more the recent contract is looked into the less it is liked, and Spanish is lower from the uncertain news regarding the intentions of the Government of the Peninsula.

#### THE WEEK.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10.**—Owing to the Premier's satisfactory statement in the House of Commons last night a large proportion of the recent sellers were buyers to a man to-day, and their purchases led to a very important change for the better both in the foreign and railway markets. The Russian issues, which large margins exist between the buying and selling prices, advanced from 3 to 5 per cent. Hungarian (1874 and 1875) rose 3 per cent., and Argentine (1868), 2½ per cent., to 6½, 6½, 6½. Egyptians were also in demand, the 1873 Loan going up 1½, to 37. Turkeys were 13½, 13½, 9½, to 13½, 13½, 3½. In railways the chief feature was the 2 per cent. rise in Brighton A, which of late has been much depressed. Dover A and Berwick each rose 1½. There was a general opinion that a further rise would be seen on Monday, notwithstanding that it is the last day of the present account. Prices, 12½ to 13½; Ottoman Bank, 4½ to 4½; Direct Cable, 6½ to 7½; Anglo, 5½ to 5½; Hudson Bay shares, 17 to 17½, a further fall of 10s.; General Credit, 5½ to 5½; Credit Foncier, 1 to 1½. Mining shares were rather offered. Eberhardt, Great Laxey, and Richmond each falling 10s.; Argentine, 6 to 6½; Pateley Bridge, 3½ to 4½; East Van, 9½ to 9½; Penrithal, ¾ to ¾; Sweetland Creek, ¾ to 1½.

**MONDAY.**—There was increased firmness to-day, and the upward movement made further progress. There was an average rise of 1½ in Russians; Hungarian Five per cent. of 1871 advanced 3 per cent. Egyptians showed firmness throughout the day, the 1873 Loan at one period touching 39; the closing price, however, was only 37½ to 37½. A feature of the day was the firmness in Argentine, which, as usual just on the eve of making up, were braced up in order to exact backwardation from "bears," and then tumble all to pieces again. The 1868 Loan has improved 2, to 63½, 64½. Turkish Fives, 13½ to 13½; ditto Six per cent., 1871, 20½ to 20½. Peruvians, 14 to 14½. Spanish, 13½ to 13½. Paraguay, 1872, 6 to 8. Railways, though not in all instances closing at the best, had a good rise. Berwick improved 2½, to 54½, 54½; Chatham and Dover Preference, 1½, to 64½; Caledonian and Dover A rose 1½. The increase on the Brighton Railway was 12½, and on the South-Eastern 753½. Metropolitan were at one time in good demand, but fell away in the afternoon. It was rumoured, however, that a rise was coming off. Imperial Ottoman, 4½ to 4½; Anglo-Australian Bank, 5½ to 6. The directors of the Australian Agricultural Company will recommend a dividend of 2½. 5s. per share, making 4½. 5s. for the year; present price, 88 to 90. Scottish Australian stock was offered at 160. In mines Whal Greenville fell to 1½; Marke Valley were offered at 1½, and Pennerley were dealt in at 2. Penrithal, ¾ to ¾; Parys Mountain, 18s. to 20s.; Aberdare, 10s. to 15s.; New Quebrada, 3½ to 4½; Port Phillip, ¾ to ¾.

**TUESDAY (Continuation Day).**—The backwardation paid on Argentine averaged 2½ per hundred, which "bears" cheerfully paid, and, having arranged their accounts, sold the bonds with such zest that at the close the 1868 and 1872 Loans had fallen 5½, and that of 1871 3½. Russians in like manner fell from 1 to 2 per cent., the fall being greatest in the 1872 Loan. Egyptians were carried over even at 37½. Among railways, Berwick, Midland, and Birmingham were found to be greatly oversold, and had to be borrowed at from ¼ to ½ back. Some complaint was made about the making up price of Berwick, which was fixed by the Clerks of the House at 155. Rule 82 says the making up price shall be fixed "by taking the average price between eleven and two o'clock on each of the two days preceding the account, and between eleven and a quarter to one on the settling day, and it is difficult to see how such a process could carry Berwick so high. The old rumour as to the remission of the passenger duty was made to do duty late in the afternoon, the result being a rise of 2½ in Metropolitan, 1½ in districts, and 1½ in South Easterns and Chatham. Berwick were very heavy all day, and in the end closed at 54. Caledonian, 10½ to 11½. Dover, A, 11½ to 11½. Grand Trunk, 7½ to 7½. Lombard Obligations, 9½ to 9½. Railway Debenture Trust, 6½ to 7. Imperial Credit, 7½ to 7½. General Credit, 5½ to 6. National Discount shares fell 6s., being offered at 7½. The variations in mines comprised a fall of 10s. in Great Laxey, and one of 5s. in Exchequer. Richmond, 8½ to 8½ (week's run, 3420.00). Almadén, 2 to 2½. Sierra Butte, ¾ to 1½. Javali, ¾ to ¾. We have (Same Day).—Railways were in strong demand at the opening, and until late in the afternoon remained firm at an improving price, when they were offered, and declined generally, but not more than to the extent of a quarter on the whole. The exceptions were Metropolitan, which from 100½ fell to 99½,

Dover A from 114½ to 113½, and British from 96½ to 95½. The latter, however, closed at an improvement on yesterday. Berwick were again heavy throughout the day, closing 154 to 154½; traffic increase 8908. Fears are entertained of a large amount among the colliers in Durham. Foreign stocks were firm, notwithstanding a rumour that the armistice has been rejected. Egyptians being scarce for settlement at Paris advanced to 39. The North British traffic shows an increase of 25,000, the Midland increase of 27,767, the Birmingham an increase of 9470, the Great Western an increase of 13,834, the Great Eastern an increase of 10,630, and the Metropolitan an increase of 15,901.

**THURSDAY.**—Stimulated by further buying on the part of the French, Egyptians went up from 39½ to 41½; and though the last price was 1 per cent. below this, a good rise on the day was shown. At Paris they were dealt in as high as 1½, but declined there, too, in the evening. The settlement was concluded to-day without a single mishap, and operators, finding themselves free for another fortnight, sold railway stocks rather heavily. Brighton A collapsed very readily, dropping from 95 to 93½; next in order North British and Dover A showed most weakness, each falling 1 per cent. Caledonian, 109½ to 109½; Great Eastern, 38½ to 39; York A, 133½ to 134; Metropolitan, 98½ to 99; North British, 94½ to 94½. The directors of the Atlas Steel and Iron Works will recommend a 10 per cent. dividend, inclusive of the interim one paid last December. Peruvians were sold; the new contract with the Messrs. Raphael being even less liked than the Paris one. Gradually but surely this South American Republic is educating its bondholders to the hopeless condition. The Six per cent. closed 18½ to 18½, and the Five 13½ to 13½. The shares of the Newfoundland Company were dealt in at 10s., a rise of 5s. Richmond, 8½ to 9; Eberhardt, 8½ to 9½.

**FRIDAY.**—The Stock Exchange has been thrown into a state of great excitement by the announcement that Hussien Pacha and Rachid Pacha, Ministers of War and Foreign Affairs, had been assassinated. Consols at once fell ¼ per cent. Though doubted by some, it bears all the marks of genuineness, and has exercised a powerful influence on prices. Turkish Fives, from 13½, have dropped to 12½, and Egyptians, 1873, from 40½ to 38½. Brighton A, North British, and Dover A have all fallen quite 1 per cent., being 92½, 93½, and 111½. Sheffield are down to 62½, and Great Western to 103½. Two o'clock.—Consols have greatly recovered, and most of the railways are much better. Sheffield and Great Western are quite 1 per cent. higher. British, 93½ to 93½; Dover A, 111½ to 111½; Brighton A, 92½ to 92½; Berwick, 153½ to 153½; Great Western, 104½ to 104½; Egyptians are 39; Four o'clock.—A further decided recovery has taken place. Egyptians are 39½ to 40, and Turkish Fives 13 3/16ths to 13 5/16ths. In railways, Metropolitan, from being 98½, are now 99½ to 100. Brighton A and Berwick have each improved a further ½. Sheffield are 63½ to 63½, and Caledonian 110. Scotland beyond confirming the first telegram no further intelligence has been received from Constantinople. The late Minister of War was a man of determined energy, given more to acting than reflecting, and at one time seemed desirous of forcing on a war with Serbia at all hazards. —*Burchin-Lane, June 16.* FERDINAND R. KIRK.

#### DEEP MINING SHAFTS IN EUROPE.

Twenty years ago the deepest mining shafts in the world reached only about 2000 ft. below the surface. The very deepest, we believe, was a metalliferous mine in Hanover, which has been carried down to the depth of 2290 ft. The deepest perpendicular shaft to-day is the Adalbert shaft in a silver-lead mine in Przibram, in Bohemia, which has reached a depth of 3280 ft. The attainment of that depth was made the occasion of a three days festival, and still further noticed by the striking off of a large number of commemorative silver medals of the value of a florin each. There is no record of the beginning of work on this mine, although its written history goes back to 1527. Quite recently an elegant commemorative volume has been written and printed, which is most interesting to those who have a taste for either the actualities or antiquities of mining industry. There are two other localities, however, where a greater depth has been reached than at the Adalbert shaft, but not in a perpendicular line. These are—1. The Rocksalt bore-hole, near Sprenberg, not far from Berlin, which a few years ago had been bored to a depth of 4175 ft.—2. The coal mine of Viviers Remus, in Belgium, where the miners, by shaft sinking together with boring, have reached a total depth of 3542 ft. Turning from these two mines, no shaft in unbroken perpendicular line has as yet exceeded the depth of 3280 ft. Taking each singly, the deepest shafts in the world at the present moment group themselves according to the following order:—

- 1.—The already-mentioned Adalbert shaft, 3280 ft. deep. As the top of this shaft is 1732 ft. above the sea level, the bottom is, of course, 1548 ft. below it.
- 2.—Two shafts near Gilly, in Belgium, are sunk to the depth of 2847 ft. At this depth they were both connected by a horizontal drift, from there an exploring shaft is sunk to a further depth of 666 ft., and from there again a trial hole, 49 ft. in depth, is put down, so that the total depth reached is 3542 ft. As they did not in the bore-hole discover the sought-for coal seam, they have returned to the shaft at the 2847-ft. level.
- 3.—The Fimgkerts shaft of the Lugaue Coal Mining Company, Rhenania, Lugaue, in the kingdom of Saxony, is 2553 ft. deep.
- 4.—The Sampson shaft of the Oberhartz Lead and Silver Mining Works, near St. Andreasberg, Hanover, has a depth of 2437 ft., it is at present the deepest shaft of Prussian mining.
- 5.—The winding shaft of the Rosebridge Colliery, near Wigan, Lancashire, England, has a depth of 2458 ft. Coal is drawn from the "hanging on" at the 2418 ft. level; the time of the cage running this distance being 55 seconds; the winding rope has, therefore, an average speed of 44 ft. per second.
- 6.—A shaft at the coal mines of St. Luke, near St. Chaumont, in the Loire department, France, reaches 2253 ft.
- 7.—The shaft of the Dunkirk Colliery, near Dunkinfield, Lancashire, is 2069 ft. deep, but the mining is prosecuted to a further depth of 755 ft. by shafts from the lower levels, making a total depth of the mine of 2824 ft.
- 8.—The deepest shaft of the collieries near Ronchamp, in France, is 1881 ft. A similar depth has been reached by the argentiferous mine near Kongsberg, in Norway. The mines belonging to the Rora Copper Works, in Norway, have worked to the depth of from 2540 ft. to 4270 ft.
- 9.—The Amalia shaft in the mine works near Schemnitz, in Hungary, 1782 ft.
- 10.—The No. 1 Camphausen shaft, near Fishbach, in the department of the Saarbrück Collieries, has now reached the depth of 1650 ft., and may possibly become the deepest shaft in Prussian coal mining.

Although the depths to which the shafts enumerated have penetrated into the interior of the earth in the art and practice of mining may appear mighty, and may be an expressive witness of the great progress made in mining pursuits, yet, on the other hand, the above results may be considered insignificantly small when we compare them with the extent of the earth's crust and the diameter of the earth. The deepest bore-hole in the world is the artesian spring at Potsdam, in Missouri, which reaches a depth of 5500 ft.

**MANUFACTURE OF BRICKS.**—A metal disc is, according to the invention of Mr. CHARLES EMMET, of Leeds, provided with holes or moulds corresponding in shape with articles to be formed, intermittent rotary motion being conveyed by drag, bar, or rod, a check arrangement preventing the disc being dragged too far. Each hole is fed from hopper, and the contents of hole are rammed or pressed, and the pressed brick or other form pushed out on to a travelling sheet.

**STEAM BOILERS AND FURNACES.**—The object of the invention of Messrs. Smith and Lester, of Chicago, United States, is the complete combustion of the combustible gases by subjecting them to the intense heat of a blast with accelerating the draught through the grate. The said invention comprises a narrow throat at the rear end of the grate, through which these waste gases mixed with fresh air may be compelled to pass at an accelerated velocity, and in contact with a mass of intensely burning fuel, whereby the temperature is so raised that combustion is made complete.

**GELATINISING NITROGLYCERINE.**—The object of the invention of Mr. A. NOBEL, of Paris, is to convert at the ordinary temperature liquid explosive substances, such as nitroglycerine or the nitrates of methyle, ethyle, amyle, and nitrobenzine, into a viscid or pasty state. To this end these substances are incorporated with another substance which is capable of gelatinising or thickening them, and a substance is chosen by preference which will detract little or nothing from their explosive force.

**TUNNELLING MACHINERY.**—According to the invention of Major BEAUMONT, of Westminster Chambers, a revolving borehead carries a number of steel cutters arranged in steps receding on each side from the centre, so that when it is brought against the face of a soft stratum, such as chalk, and rotated, each cutter will scrape away the face of the chalk in the form of a circular ledge somewhat in advance of the next cutter outside it. The borehead is constructed in the shape of two or more radial arms, which as they rotate allow



time between the passage of each arm for the removal of the debris. The borehead may consist of separate parts revolving at different speeds.

## GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

June 7, 1876.—Prof. P. MARTIN DUNCAN, M.B., F.R.S. (President), in the chair.

John Thomas Atkinson, Selby, Yorkshire; Edmund Clark, B.A., B.Sc., York, and Street, Somersetshire; Frederick Derry, Upper Hockley-street, Vyse-street, Birmingham; Walter Soper Gervis, M.D., Hockley-street, Ashburton, Devon; Thomas Jones, jun., Clytha-square, West-street, Monmouthshire; Baldwin Latham, M.Inst.C.E., Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, and Parkhill Rise, Croydon; and Edward Sewell, M.A., Hkley College, near Leeds, were elected Fellows of the society. Mr. M. Moore, mining engineer, Catherine-street, Francisco, and R. M. Moore, mining engineer, Bush-street, San Francisco, were proposed as fellows of the society.

1.—“On the British Fossil Crustaceans,” by Harry Govier Seeley, F.L.S., F.G.S., Professor of Physical Geography in Bedford College, London.

2.—“On two Chimeroid Jaws from the Lower Greensand of New Zealand,” by E. T. Newton, F.G.S., of H. M. Geological Survey.

3.—“On a Bone Bed in the Lower Coal Measures, with an enumeration of the Fish Remains of which it is principally composed,” by J. W. Davis, F.L.S., F.G.S.

In this paper the author described a thin bed composed chiefly of remains of fishes, which rests immediately upon the “Better-bed Coal” of the Lower Coal Measures in Yorkshire. The bed varies from a quarter to five-eighths of an inch in thickness, and is overlain by a thick bed of blue argillaceous shale, containing remains of plants. The author described the order of the deposits both above and below the “Bone-bed,” and gave a list of the organisms of which remains are found in the latter, including species of *Gyracanthus*, *Ctenacanthus*, *Leptacanthus*, *Acanthodes*, *Pleuracanthus*, *Orthacanthus*, *Diploodus*, *Pleurodus*, *Helodus*, *Cladodus*, *Pocilodus*, *Petalodus*, *Harporodus*, *Ctenopichthys*, *Megalichthys*, *Holopichthys*, *Strepsodus*, *Acrolepis*, *Platysomus*, *Acanthodopsis*, *Amphicentron*, *Rhizodopsis*, *Cycloptichthys*, *Gyrolepis*, *Palaeoniscus*, *Calacanthus*, and *Ctenodus*. The author also described spines which he regarded as indicating two new genera of Elasmobranchs, one probably allied to *Pleuracanthus*, and the other (*Hoplonchus*) allied to *Onchus* and *Homonchus*. Bones belonging to the Labyrinthodont genus *Loxomma* are met with rarely in the deposit.

Sr PHILIP GARRTON remarked upon the evidence of the advantage to geological progress of the activity of local observers furnished by the detection and thorough working out of this bone bed which, being about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick, would in all probability have entirely evaded the notice of geologists not resident in the immediate district. Local observers—he did not mean mere collectors, but men who knew how to follow out a course of investigation indicated by the local phenomena noticed by them—ought in every way to be encouraged. He said that *Onchus* is one of the most difficult genera of fossil fishes; it is essentially an Old Red type, but extends up into the carboniferous limestone, and even into the coal measures, from which Agassiz described one species under the name of *O. acuminatus*. This will, in all probability, prove to belong to Mr. Davis's new genus *Hoplonchus*. He approved of the author's proposed union of the two supposed species of *Gyracanthus*, and agreed with him in his determination of the *Calacanthi*. To show the generality and wide distribution of the characteristic forms of this formation he mentioned that M. Dewalque had recently furnished him with examples of several of the species from Central Russia.

Mr. ELLERIDGE remarked that its relation to the better-bed coal gave this bone-bed a perfectly definite geological horizon.

4.—Note on a species of Foraminifera from the Carboniferous formation of Sumatra,” by M. Jules Huguenin. Communicated by Prof. Ramsay, F.R.S., V.P.G.S.

5.—“On the Triassic Rocks of Somerset and Devon,” by W. A. E. Usher, F.G.S.

The author stated that the Trias of Devon and Somerset was divisible into three groups, occupying distinct areas. The first lies north of the Mendip Hills, where the Trias is thinnest and assumes its simplest characters, consisting of marls and dolomitic conglomerate, the former predominating, the latter not only occurring as a basement series, but in some cases persisting continuously upwards as the marginal equivalent of the marl, as Rhetic beds overlie both alike. South of the Mendips the Trias is similarly constituted, but is of much greater thickness. The second area embraces the country south of the Polden Hills as far as a north and south line through Taunton. The chief portion of the Trias in this area, as in the northern, consists of marls; but unless the breccias of Wembdon, near Bridgewater, are portions of a basement series, faulted up, but elsewhere concealed, the lower division consists of sandstones found resting on the flanks of the Quantocks, flanking outliers of the older rocks, and here and there faulted up.

In the lower parts of the marls in the Vale of Taunton and other places occasional beds of sandstone are found, which from their position may be regarded as equivalent to the Upper Keuper Sandstone of Professor Hull. The sandstones of this area differ from the conglomerates of the Mendip country in occupying a definite subordinate horizon to the marls, and not dovetailing into them. The third area, bounded on the north by the Bristol Channel, on the south by the English Channel, on the east by the Blackdown range, and on the west by the Culm and Devonian highlands, presents the most complex relations of the Trias in the south-western counties. The upper member of the series, as in the other districts, consists of marls; they contain occasionally thin beds of sandstone towards the base, which may be considered, although apparently of local occurrence, as Upper Keuper Sandstone. They are underlain by sandstones. In these two upper divisions we have the continuation of the whole Triassic series of the second area; and in the third underlying division conglomerate and pebble-beds. From Watchet to a point west of Wellington this division is represented by hard bedded conglomerate, thence to the south coast by sands with rounded grains and pebbles, at first of quartz grit and slate, gradually giving place to the large foreign-derived quartzites of Badleigh Salterton.

A second series of marls is found to underlie the conglomerate and pebble-beds conformably. This attains as much as 500 ft. in thickness near the south coast, but in the northern part of the district does not appear to exceed 200 ft.

The base of the series is composed of sandstone, breccia, and occasionally clays, occurring at different horizons in different parts of the area, and each variety locally predominant over the others. The clay beds appear to be confined to the neighbourhoods of Exeter and Crediton. The upper part of the division south of Bradninch seems to consist of Red Sandstones, the lowermost and principal part of the division consisting of breccia. North of Bradninch the sandstone occupies the principal portion of the division, sometimes apparently to the exclusion of the breccia. Towards Wiveliscombe the upper part of the series for from 15 to 30 feet consists of breccia and breccia-conglomerate, the major part consisting, as before, of sandstones. North of Wiveliscombe breccia begins to prevail, and in the Stogumber valley principally represents the division. Owing to the conformity of the various members of this latter group, they appear to represent continuous deposition. We might fairly consider the upper marls and sandstone as representing the Keuper, as their average thickness taken together can scarcely be under 1000 ft. The lowermost sandstone and breccia may be taken as equivalents of part of the Bunter, as they are probably 1000 ft. thick near the south coast, and 300 where least developed. The representation of the Muschelkalk would lie then between the conglomerate, or Lower Marl divisions, and the one rejected be incorporated with Keuper or Bunter.

Mr. ELLERIDGE remarked that the Rhetics form a most important feature in Somersetshire. He thought that the ignorance of the Triassic rocks so common among geologists was to be ascribed to a great extent to the want of interest attaching to these non-fossiliferous red beds, and hence our thanks were due to those who, like Mr. Usher, would work upon them.

Prof. RAMSAY said that Sir Henry de la Beche grouped the whole

of the Triassic rocks together, but nevertheless there was no doubt that he fully understood their nature. In passing over part of the country he had once fancied that some of the lower breccias might be Permian, but he had never been able to investigate the matter.

The AUTHOR remarked that if the Lower Breccias were Permian there was no reason why the Bunter and Muschelkalk might not be so also.

## THE MAGNETO-INDUCTION MACHINE.

BY DR. EDUARD ZETZSCHE.

The principle of these machines (Von Hefner-Alteneck's system) is founded on the fact that a current is induced in a closed circuit when a portion of such circuit is introduced between a magnet whose opposite poles face each other. The direction of the induced current depends on the position of the poles with relation to the direction of the motion. The poles of a permanent steel magnet or of an electro-magnet can be employed; in the latter case, the electro-dynamic principle—discovered independently by Dr. Werner Siemens and Professor Wheatstone—comes into play. By this principle the current of the machine is itself instrumental in exciting the electro-magnetism, by adding strength to the remanent magnetism originally present in the cores of the electro-magnet. The conductor in Hefner's machine is a covered copper wire, which, for an electric light apparatus, is wound in eight separate parts upon a German-silver cylinder, and parallel to the axis of the cylinder. The coils entirely surround the cylinder.

The exterior of the wire cylinder is partially surrounded at opposite sides, above and below, by bent iron bars, these bars inclosing about a third of the circumference of the cylinder, and being at right angles to its axis. There are as many of these bars as the length of the cylinder will admit of, and they form the cores of the electro-magnets. The bars are nowhere at a greater distance from the wire cylinder than is necessary for the latter to revolve. The two sets of bars or poles form magnetic fields of high intensity through which the wires of the bobbin move. To combine the opposite currents induced in the separate coils into a current of common direction the circumference of the cylinder is divided into eight equal parts, covered with two wires of equal length, coiled one over the other. These wires have sixteen ends, which are led through hollow pivots on the cylinder to a commutator plate that revolves with the wire cylinder. This commutator comprises eight metal sectors arranged on a plate, but separated from each other by narrow radial spaces.

At two places, diametrically opposite, a metal wheel is pressed against the commutator plate by means of a strong spring. These two metal wheels form the electrical poles of the machine, and are connected to suitable terminal screws. Between these electrical poles, and joined to them by leading wires, is placed the lamp with its carbon points. From the poles flows on the one side a negative and on the other side a positive current, always in one direction. As long as this external circuit remains open the machine requires an impelling force scarcely exceeding that necessary to overcome friction. With a closed circuit the quantity of electricity generated by the machine, and at the same time the work consumed by it, increase rapidly; and a small increase in the speed of revolution of the bobbin gives considerable augmentation of the current. The intensity of the magnetic field is increased—and consequently the current-intensity—by a fixed iron core placed inside the hollow wire cylinder. As this fixed position prevents the occurrence of Foucault's currents in the iron core, the machine gains, inasmuch as these currents involve unnecessary consumption of work, and give rise to heating.

In smaller machines, however, in which saving of force is not so important, the advantages derived from fixing the iron core will not always outweigh the benefits of simple construction, and in such instances it is better to let the iron core revolve with the wire coils. At the same time, to reduce these Foucault currents to a minimum as far as practicable, the core should not be made of massive iron, but of coils of iron wire wound on a wooden cylinder. There is described, besides the electric-light machine (which at 450 revolutions per minute, gives a light equal to that of 14,000 normal candles), a small machine suited for physical laboratories, which, with an internal resistance of half a Siemens unit, and at two revolutions per second, gives a current equal to that from 10 Bunsen elements joined in series.

(Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal, Band)—Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, by JAMES FORREST.

## MINING.

There are few more legitimate enterprises than mining, if properly conducted. Taking the amount of capital invested, and the profits which have been derived from mining, no form of investment will be found to have made greater aggregate returns. The reason why it does not stand so high as, under the circumstances, it ought is that in estimating returns the past is for the most part overlooked, and the present alone considered. As in other undertakings, there must be in mining, moments not only of special but of general depression. From causes which are beyond control prices occasionally fall so much to make production unprofitable for a time. The same occurs in all branches of industry. It also happens that losses whose appearance gave the fairest promise of a bright future suddenly fail; but with time and perseverance they may for the most part be again reached. Such are the natural vicissitudes to which all human affairs are liable, and on which the calculations for life and other kinds of assurance are based, where, by spreading the capital over a number of cases, a fair average is obtained. There can be no doubt that by exercising due care and discretion in making the selection of stocks a great deal of the risk which is supposed to attend mining operations may be avoided. Should, in addition, the system be followed of placing the money at disposal in several different mines, each selected with equal care, the chances of loss may be reduced to a minimum. Looking, indeed, at mining as a whole, there appears to be no form of joint-stock enterprise which offers so many attractions to investors, whether considered as regards security or remuneration. There can, however, be no doubt that the management which has been followed in many mines has been so extravagant that it was impossible, unless under exceptional circumstances, to make them pay; and this has been the frequent cause of bringing most unmerited disrepute on mining generally. A great deal of the blame must rest on the shareholders themselves, who, by their supineness and inattention to their own interests, too often allow the most flagrant abuses to pass unnoticed. For this reason the old Cost Book System, when the company working a mine was composed of a few persons, all of whom took an active part in the superintendence, was most eligible, from its simplicity and fair dealing, and nothing could be more suitable at the time this plan was in vogue. The necessary outlays were then comparatively small, and the requisite sums were found in the immediate neighbourhood. Now this is entirely changed; costly machinery is required, and the capital necessary is usually drawn from the larger cities, where money generally accumulates. Under these circumstances, it is impossible for the shareholders who have other avocations, to exert the same active supervision which was easy in the former instance, and the Cost Book System, with its unlimited liability, would virtually cause them to place, not only their interest in the mines, but their fortunes, at the disposal of those who were on the spot. There are also many other inconveniences attached to the system which are avoided by the adoption of the principle of limited liability. Its advantages are already generally acknowledged, and the many abuses which used to exist are gradually yielding to the influence of this better plan. For these reasons I advocate the general introduction of limited liability as being most suited to the exigencies of the times.

The last three years have been particularly unfavourable to mining interests generally, and peculiarly to those of Cornwall and Devon. There has been a state of depression in the duchy which is almost unparalleled. The change took place at a time when Cornish mining was enjoying a period of great prosperity. Copper and tin were commanding unusually high prices. Speculation set in on a great scale simultaneously with the rise. The markets became unduly inflated, and fictitious values were established for sales which had no y their existence on paper. As a consequence, foreign production was fostered by the high quotations reached. Importations on a large scale took place from all quarters. So sudden was the increase of stocks thus produced, and so great the dread that it was only the forerunner of still further supplies which would come in, that sales were suddenly checked. Speculators who had been dealing on credit found themselves saddled with contracts they could not carry out in the face of a falling market. A panic was the natural result. The metal markets, which had been buoyed up by worthless paper, collapsed, and prices declined with a rapidity great in proportion to the suddenness of the increase which had previously taken place. About this time the prices of coal, material, and wages began to rise, until the famine point, from which all branches of industry have suffered, was reached. Our mines in Cornwall had thus to meet a foreign competition never previously known under conditions of difficulty which had never before been exemplified. That they have been able to resist in so far as they have done the immense strain thus put upon them is a proof of their real intrinsic merit, and gives the best grounds for anticipating that when affairs shall have returned to their normal channel they will again become sources of national wealth. One point is clear, that if prices were to continue at figures which make profitable mining in England impossible, with all the advantages we possess in fuel, mechanical appliances, and skilled labour, it will be only in a very few instances that foreign producers will be able to continue exporting to us, with all the disadvantages they labour under of heavy freights and

the want of those very essentials in which we are rich. That this is already beginning to be felt is clear from the news received from the tin districts of Australia, where the stream tin mines, whose working is the least expensive that exists, are found not to be paying speculations at present prices, and are being for the time abandoned for more lucrative employments. What has taken place with regard to tin has done so also, to a certain degree, in copper, as is evinced by the strikes on the part of the copper miners reported from the same quarter.

Looking dispassionately at the present state of mining in Cornwall, and in other counties producing copper and tin, it is evident that the existing state of depression is due rather to a series of unfavourable circumstances in this country than to foreign competition. All branches of trade and industry are alike suffering from the same causes. Mining, as being peculiarly sensitive to such influences, is doing so to a greater degree than most others. When the recovery begins to set in, as there is every appearance of its doing, though the settlement of the labour question may delay it for some short time, mining will at once begin to recover; but, as we have called into existence a very formidable foreign production, we must set about introducing all those improvements and labour-saving appliances which may enable us to produce our ores at the cheapest possible rates. Many years ago, when Captain Trevethick introduced his great improvements into the pumping-engines used in Cornwall, the mining of the duchy was in a similar condition to that which it is now, with this exception, that, instead of being of a passing nature, it had become chronic. His varied inventions gave it new life. The same must be done now, and we need not fear for the future. To do so will, no doubt, cost considerable sums of money, but when capitalists see fair prospects of handsome returns there will be no lack of funds for any legitimate purposes.

There are already unmistakable signs of a recovery in mining, and when it does commence in earnest we shall have only good sound enterprises, the weak having been weeded out. The great point which must be attended to in order to ensure success is in the appointment of directors and managers. No matter how intrinsically good an affair it is cannot be successful if badly managed. I would always insist on the greatest care being exercised in the choice of the officers to whom the management of a company is to be entrusted, and I would desire particularly to impress the necessity of this being more especially attended to in the case of mining, where everything depends on the manner in which it is conducted. In selecting mines it may be generally presumed that those situated in highly mineralised districts and in the vicinity of productive properties will prove profitable. No better augury can be furnished of the future of a young mine than is derived from the nature of the locality in which it is placed, and in my selection for the attention of capitalists the greatest care has been taken. Notwithstanding the fluctuations that have taken place with metals in general, lead has maintained a steady price, and is likely to continue to do so. Shares in well selected lead mines at the present time offer annual attractions to the investor, but it requires caution to secure considerable returns.

What can be the reason for so many people to regard this class of investment with a degree of suspicion requires, thought on the part of advisers. Those who have made large fortunes by great rises in market value and immense dividends do not stand at the corners of the streets and acquaint the world with their wonderful gains, but they do with their losses, and warn others against mining shares, instead, rather, of blaming themselves for trusting their interests to the care of those who greedily take the commission without thought of the benefit to the client. Coming in contact with so many disappointed capitalists, I generally enquire the names of those mines in which they had invested, and although I must admit, in some cases, failure from low classed ores or other contingencies, still too frequently the promoter starves the property to enrich his pocket, whereas if the mine or mines had been properly conducted fair returns would in all human probability have resulted. I maintain that the selection of mining shares requires more than ordinary precaution, but with a conscientious adviser the result will be surprising to the most sanguine capitalist. The public seem now, however, to dwell upon the blanks, and not the prizes. The following are the results from the workings of four lead mines, meetings being held recently:—The first paid a dividend at the rate of 50 per cent. upon the capital, and carried forward 100% to the reserve fund—in other words, the mine has paid 600,000l. for 60,000l.; the second declared a dividend of 10s. per share, or over 20 per cent.; the third exhibited a profit of over 500% for the half year; whilst the fourth, in the last half year, made a profit of 13.9%, upon a capital of 50,000l., and this has been done whilst the property in as good a position as it was before. This latter has been in operation for 20 years, during which time 84,000 tons of ore have been extracted. The 84,000 tons have produced actually 5,950 tons of lead, the gross value of which has been 1,170,500l. The dividends that have been paid during that period have been 144,791l., being an amount of 5s. 15s. 10d. per 2l. share. The company was at one time in considerable financial difficulty; they borrowed 15,000l. All that money has been repaid, and there is an abundance of floating capital. They began with a capital account of 50,000l., which was spent in mines, buildings, and materials, and 4000l. beyond. They have written off from profits from time to time in order to supply a working capital of no less than 20,794l. The smelting works have cost an additional 5800l., and yet with all that the buildings now stand at a debit of 39,000l., instead of 50,000l., which was the original capital. The reserve capital is now 6058l. It is hardly possible to find a company that throughout its period of existence can present a more flourishing aspect than this has done, and I do so at this present moment. To accomplish all this work there have been driven 20,000 yards and upwards, or more than 11½ miles of levels. The aggregate shafts have been sunk 4390 yards, or 2½ miles. The winzes are 6390 yards, which are equivalent to 3 miles. The Chairman very truly said that this would, perhaps, hardly strike one at the moment, but it is actually a perforation of about 10 ft. by 6 ft. as high as the extreme point of the Himalaya down to the ocean level, or equal to two shafts of that size from the height of Mont Blanc to the level of the sea. Surely at a time like this, when millions of the public money have been lost in foreign loans and foreign trusts of one kind and another, instances of successful mining like these deserve to be recorded.

—From “How and When to Invest,” by E. J. BARTLETT.

MOULDING BRICKS AND TILES.—The invention of Messrs. CRAVEN, of Wakefield, relates to machinery or apparatus to be employed for moulding bricks, tiles, and other similar articles, from semi-dry clay or other suitable material, and consists of a peculiar construction and arrangement of parts whereby the clay or other material is automatically fed into the mould and compressed therein between an upper or lower piston in such a manner as to expel the confined air from the clay, and release the latter from adhesion to the upper piston, the bricks or other articles so formed being finally delivered from the mould in a finished state ready to be dried or baked.

FURNACE BARS.—The invention of Mr. WILLIAM FINLAY, of Red Hill, relates to an improved fire-bar made with a thin flat horizontal plate having air openings rapidly increasing in breadth or diameter from the top to the bottom, and a central vertical longitudinal web beneath, plate and web being strongly supported by brackets at intervals. This invention also relates to an improved carrying-bar, made with openings through which the ashes from the fuel drop freely into the ashpit below, and which permit a uniform and constant admission of air, no matter how many lengths of fire-bars are used in the furnace.

A MECHANICAL HORSE AND STEAM MAN.—Among the curiosities the Centennial Exhibition has produced are a mechanical horse and some steam men. These automata are said to be simple in construction, and very satisfactory in their movements.

## THE ALMADA AND TIRITO CONSOLIDATED SILVER MINING COMPANY (LIMITED).

MINA GRANDE AND DIOS PADRE.

Frank W. Breach, March 30: The 12 ft. level in Mina Grande improves, but is very dry. The tunnel cut wanted only 15 ft. to reach the Dios Padre on Saturday and is in the same ground, hard, but favourable for driving. In the rise south of the end we still have some good stones of ore—green and black about equally mixed, but without zinc.

April 6.—The Mina Grande 12 ft. level is improving as we drive to the south, and the rise also shows more ore. As we are now opening out the works the output from this level of the mine will increase. We are now cutting the pit at the shaft in this level to prepare for another sink. In the tunnel end we are within 8 ft. of the Dios Padre boundary, and have more spar in the end.

April 27.—Telegram received from Mr. Breach: “Mina Grande ground at present disordered by limestone in the 12 ft. level. Labour abundant.”

June 6.—Telegram received from Mr. Breach: Dios Padre.—“Lode west of crosscut 3 ft. wide, ore black, coppery, and looking well. Ore vein, tunnel end, promising. Mina Grande lode poor in the 12 ft. level.”

PROVIDENCIA, TIRITO, AND NEW EAST LODGE.

Frank W. Breach, March 3: Underground the stopes throughout remain the same as last week, and the improvement in the bank of the New East Lodge continues. In the Providencia Mine the cross cuts in the 32 and 10 ft. levels east are in the same ground, rather better for working, and although almost a pure limestone it is not country ground. The cross cut east in the upper works in the Providencia is in the footwall, and we find the lode in that part in an eastern underlie. In this cross cut we have found a vein of green ore that perhaps may pay to follow, but like all the lode in this mine it is only balls of ore. We are now driving to the north on it. In the Tirito we are cross cutting on the level of the tunnel to sink for the new east lode further to the south, and although after driving through an apparent horse of ground we cut spar with very good copper ore, it does not yet look very promising.

April 6: In the Providencia Mine the stopes remain as usual. In the cross-cuts in the 32 and 10 ft. levels the ground continues the same. From the large cuts in the tunnel to the south of the Providencia we have commenced a cross-cut in the hope of striking the New East lode 16 ft. above the tunnel level; we are now driving through hard spar. In the cross cut on the tunnel level in the Tirito Mine we are driving to the south, and we are now following the one reported last week. In the stopes over this level we have now a vein of very good black ore about 2 ft. wide, which appears inclined to separate itself from the red and green ore, of which the vein is composed. The engine-shaft is still in easy ground. We are now down 30 ft. below the 37. I omitted to mention that after some little trouble with the water we have commenced to sink a winze in the New East lode, and have very good ore and comparatively dry ground. I am now making out the accounts for last month, and I find all classes of ore assay well for copper, varying from 5.6 per cent. to 8.7 per cent. by wet assay.

April 27: Telegram received from Mr. Breach: “New East lode improving.” The directors have received transverse sections of the Mina Grande and Tirito Mines, which can be seen at the offices of the company. The first of these is especially important, as proving distinctly that there are two large branches in the Mina Grande, which will probably join about 20 to 30 fms. under the tunnel level.



to cut into it; and I think I never saw a finer lode of carbonate of barytes mixed with lead than is here presented. I am glad to inform you that we have struck the lode on the eastern side of the shaft, but are not yet through to the other wall; so far as we can see at present, the value of the same will exceed our anticipations, for apparently its whole composition is carbonate and lead in equal portions. As I stated some time since that the cutting of this lode is a very important point for



70 end east is worth 7½ per fathom. A winze in the bottom of this level is worth 12 per fathom. The 130 east is worth 12½ per fathom. The 150 east is worth 10½ per fathom. The 150 west is worth 10 per fathom. A winze in the bottom of this level is worth 8½ per fathom. The 150 end and west of incline shaft, is worth 12½ per fathom.									
<b>WHITEHAVEN IRON MINES.</b> —April 19: Agent's report for month ending March 25: A stope in the back of new drift, above No. 1, has been worked, by two men, 12 fms. 5 ft., at 17. 10s. per fathom. The new drift above No. 2 has been driven 3 fms. 4 ft. 8 in. at 3¢. and 4¢. per fathom, and a part of the lode in side of level taken up for 17. 10s., as per contract, by two men. The lode here is large, but there is a great deal of granite embedded in the ore, which requires a deal of careful picking. No. 2 drift has been driven 2 fms. 5 in., by two men, at 5¢. per fathom; the lode in the present end is small, but there is every indication of an improvement; the lode is letting out a great deal of water. This drift is suspended for the present. The stope in back of No. 3 has been worked 3 fms. 4 ft., by two men, at 2¢. 5s. and 3¢. per fathom; the lode is very good. The stope in back of No. 4 drift has been worked 1 fathom 5 feet 9 inches, by two men, at 3¢. per fathom. The stope in back of No. 1 rise, has been worked 1 fathom 5 feet 3 ins. at 1¢. 3 in. by four men, at 2¢. 10s. per fathom, and a portion of the lode in back 8 fms. 2 ft. 8 in., by four men, at 3¢. 10s. per fathom. We have also worked a good deal of ground on day-work. We have had employed 19 miners, three day men, four boys, one timberman, onesmith; total, 28 men and boys.									
<b>RAVENGLASS AND ESKDALE RAILWAY.</b> —Receipts for March—Iron ore traffic, 79¢. 4s. 9d.; other traffic, 18¢. 11s. 6d.—97¢. 16s. 3d.; working expenses, 57¢. 18s. 9¢. 10¢. The stope in back of midway, south of No. 2 rise, has been worked 5 fms. 1 ft. 3 in. by two men, at 2¢. 10s. per fathom; the lode is improving in quantity and quality, and a little harder for working. No. 1 stope, in back of midway north of No. 2 rise, has been worked on day-work by six and eight men; the lode is very large, and of good quality ore. No. 1 stope, in back of No. 1 drift, has been worked 1 fm. by two men on contract, at 4¢. per fathom. We have also taken out a large portion of the footwall part of the lode, with four men on day-work. We have put a rise from the back of No. 1 drift 7 fms. 2 ft., by two men, at 17. 10s. per fathom. The stope in back of the footwall of No. 2 drift has been worked 3 fms. 1 ft., at 2¢. 10s. per fathom, and we have taken out the footwall part of the lode on day-work; this stope is suspended for the present. New drift, above No. 2, has been driven on the course of the lode 4 ft. 10 in., at 3¢. 15s. per fathom, by two men, and we have cross-cut the lode and taken down the side of the level on day-work; this drift is suspended for the present. The stope in back of No. 3 drift has been worked by two men 3 fms. 5 ft. 4 in., at 2¢. 15s. per fathom; the lode has become very good, most of it being hard kidney ore. I shall put four men in this stope as soon as they can get full pay, if possible. The indications for ore are very good. We had employed during the month 28 miners, 1 timberman, 1 smith, 4 daymen, 5 boys; total, 37 men and boys.									
<b>RAVENGLASS AND ESKDALE RAILWAY.</b> —Receipts for April: Iron ore traffic, 107¢. 4s. 2d.; other traffic, 14¢. 13s. 1d.: total, 121¢. 17s. 3d. Working expenses, 58¢. 16s. 8d.									
<b>June 8:</b> Agent's report for month ending May 20: No. 3 stope, in back of midway, south of No. 2 rise, has been worked 14 fms. 2 ft. 9 in., by two men, at 15s. per fathom. No. 1 stope, north of No. 2 rise, in back of midway, has been worked 19 fms. 4 ft., at 2¢. per fathom; and a rise, put up 3 fms. 3 ft., at 3¢. 10s. per fathom, by six men, through a good lode of ore, and is easy for working. We have six men working in back of No. 1 drift, on daywork, where the lode is large and very good; and four men in back of intermediate drift opening up a stope, on daywork, and I am very pleased to say the lode is improving. No. 2 stope, in back of No. 3 drift, has been worked 6 fms. 11 in., by two men, at 3¢. 10s. per fathom, and the lode is improving. At present no large veins of ore are visible, but the lode is more stone, and will require to be carefully picked. No. 1 stope, in back of No. 3 drift, has been worked 9 fms. 3 ft. 3 in., at 17. 10s. per fathom, by two men; the lode is very good. No. 1 stope, north of No. 2 rise, in back of No. 4 drift, has been worked 4 fms. 2 ft. 11 in., by two men, at 2¢. 10s. per fathom; the lode is small, but of good quality ore. No. 2 stope, in back of No. 4 drift, north of No. 1 rise, has been worked 3 fms. 3 ft. 6 in., by two men, at 2¢. 10s. per fathom; the lode is improving, and to all appearance a large vein of ore is opening up here. No. 1 stope, south of No. 1 rise, No. 4 drift, has been worked 5 fms. 4 ft. 6 in., by two men, at 2¢. per fathom; this stope is worked to a close. Other necessary work has been done, such as putting in stulls, making the ground secure, and taking down side level to prove the lode. We have had employed during the month 29 miners, 7 daymen, 5 boys, 1 smith, 1 timberman; total, 43 men and boys.									
<b>RAVENGLASS AND ESKDALE RAILWAY.</b> —Receipts for May: Iron ore, 168¢. 5s. 7d.; other traffic, 16¢. 6s. 1d. = 179¢. 14s. 8d. Working expenses, 51¢. 2s. 4d.									
MINING NOTABILIA									
(EXTRACTS FROM OUR MINING CORRESPONDENCE.)									
<b>SOUTH CROFTY.</b> —An important improvement is reported to-day for copper ore at the 160, on the south lode, west of East Pool boundary; here the lode is very large in place s, 20 ft. wide, and the tributaries are constantly discovering side lodges of great value, and from which they are well paid for their labour. The mine throughout presents a most promising appearance, and great hopes of a profitable future are before the persevering adventurers. The question of the absorption of coal was fully discussed at the next meeting, this is an important matter to be brought before the adventurers. If 1 ton of limestone can now be stamped at East Pool from the same lode and precisely of the same character for about 100 lbs. of coals we fail to see the reason why 100 lbs. should be consumed in stamping the same quantity in this mine.									
<b>IMPORTANT DISCOVERY IN NORTH DEVON.</b> —Promising silver-lead has been discovered by an experienced tributor in a trial shaft in North Devon. The water coming from No. 1 lode could not be kept by cisterns, and splendid spar, minerals, and lead are being taken out, and he believes there is a good lode on the footwall. Five lodges run through the sett, there is a good stream of water, and the dices are but 1-16th. The discoverer is seeking the co-operation of capitalists.									
<b>THE WALLAROO SMELTING WORKS.</b> —It is mentioned in the "Wallaroo Times" that a small portion of the principal stack of chimneys at these works is being removed in order that an iron top may be substituted. The stack is about 140 ft. in height, but the proprietors contemplate the erection of one 270 ft. high. This will be of colossal proportions, and its erection will indicate the faith felt in the future of the copper mining interest of South Australia.— <i>South Australian Register</i> , April 21.									
Date.	Mines.	Tons.	Pries per ton.	Purchasers.					
June 2—Minera .....	58	.....	£14 15 6	St. Helen's Smelt. Co.					
— ditto .....	60	.....	14 2 6	Walker, Parker, & Co.					
— ditto .....	52	.....	44 2 6	ditto					
— ditto .....	30	.....	14 3 6	ditto					
— ditto .....	17	.....	14 10 6	St. Helen's Smelt. Co.					
— ditto .....	8	.....	14 9 0	Nevill, Druce, & Co.					
8—West Tankerville .....	25	.....	11 13 0	ditto					
— Tan yar All .....	20	.....	13 16 0	Sheldon, Bush, and Co.					
9—Powell Consolidated .....	19	.....	13 17 6	ditto					
12—Lisburne Glogfawr .....	18	.....	13 0 0	Treffry's Estate,					
— „ —Glogfawr .....	40	.....	15 3 6	Sheldon, Bush, & Co.					



With this week's Journal a SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET is given, which contains—Original Correspondence: The Sulphur Mines of Italy; Mining in the East, No. V.; Australia—On Mining, Smelting, &c. (J. Hunt); On the Application of Counterbalancing and Expansion to Winding-Engines (W. Page); The Tin-Plate Trade (R. Meade); The Copper Standard; Boring Machines for Mines—Example Better than Precept; Unwrought Mining Ground of Cornwall (C. Bawden); Deposits of Copper at Nantlle Vale, Carnarvonshire (J. Roberts); Cardiganshire Mines; New Consols—Foreign Mining vonshire (J. Roberts); Cardiganshire Mines; The Industrial Uses of Metallurgy—Registration for Mining—Foreign Mines—Patent Matters. Aluminium—Boring Mac'ines for Mining—Foreign Mines—Patent Matters. Meetings: West Pateley Bridge, South Wales, Wales, Silver Plume, Wheel Grenville, New Prince of Wales, West Wheel Grenville, Wheel Pevor, Pennerley, Frontino and Bolivia, and East Nant-y-Mwyn Companies, &c.

## The Mining Market: Prices of Metals, Ores, &c.

METAL MARKET—LONDON, JUNE 16, 1876.

IRON.			TIN.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Pig, G.M.B., f.o.b. Clyde.	2	17 6	English, ingot, f.o.b.	78	0 0 78 10 0
" Scotch, all No. 1.	2	18 0	" bars	79	0 0 79 10 0
Bars, Welsh, f.o.b. Wales.	0	6 6 5 0	" refined	80	0 0 —
" in London.	6	15 0 7 10 0	Australian	73	10 0 74 0 0
" Stafford.	8	0 0 9 15 0	Banca	77	0 0 (nom.)
" in Tyne or Tees	6	10 0 —	Straits	73	15 0 —
" Swedish, London	12	0 0 12 10 0	COPPER.		
Rails, Welsh, at works.	5	10 0 6 0 0	Tough cake and ingot.	82	0 0 83 0 0
Railway chairs	—	—	Best selected	84	0 0 85 0 0
Sheet, Stafford, in London	10	0 —	Sheets and sheathing.	81	0 0 87 13 0
Plates, Staff, in London	0	12 0 —	Flat Bottoms	91	0 0 —
Hoops, Staff.	8	15 0 10 0	Wallaroo	81	0 0 81 10 0
Nail rods, Staff, in Lon.	7	15 0 8 2 6	Burra, or P.C.C.	81	0 0 81 10 0
STEEL.			Other brands	80	0 0 —
English, spring	—	0 23 0 0	Chill bars, g.o.b.	76	0 0 —
" cast	25	0 0 45 0 0	PHOSPHOR BRONZE.		
Swedish, keg	18	0 0 —	Bearing metal	—	1112 0 0
" fag. ham.	19	0 0 —	Other alloys	£120	0 0 140 0 0
LEAD.			BRASS.		
English, pig, com. on	1	0 21 5 0	Wire	—	8 1/2 d. —
" " L.B.	21	5 0 —	Tubes	—	9 — 12d.
" " W.B.	22	10 0 —	Sheets	—	9 — 19
" sheet and bar.	22	0 0 22 10 0	Yel. met. sheath. & sheets.	7 1/2	8 —
" pipe	23	0 0 —	Nails composition.	9	10 1/4
" red	24	0 0 24 10 0	TIN PLATES.* per box.		
" white	28	0 0 29 10 0	Charcoal, 1st quality	1	5 0 1 6 0
" patent shot	28	10 0 20 15 0	" 2nd quality	1	2 0 1 4 0
Spanish	20	10 0 20 15 0	Coke, 1st quality	1	0 0 1 0 0
QUICKSILVER.			" 2nd quality	0	18 6 1 0 0
Flasks of 75 lbs., ware.	9	0 0 —	Canada, Staff or Gla., at Liverpool	13	0 0 13 10 0
SPELT.			Black Taggers, 450 of 14 x 10	—	30 0 0 —
Slesian or Rhenish	23	5 0 23 10 0	less for ordinary; 10s. per ton less for		
English, Swara	23	10 0 —	quoted above, and adds, for each X.		
Sheet zinc	23	0 0 28 10 0	Terne-plates 2s. per box below tin-plates of similar brands.		



of profit and loss account at the end of June, 1875, was transferred to capital account. The profits on six months to end of December last amounted to 4177.19s. 2d. A dividend of 1s. per share was declared, and 1427.19s. carried forward. In the last accounts the amount of gold produced was 16,000l., and in the last six months it was 17,150l. In the course of his remarks the Chairman observed that, looking at all the circumstances, he thought he might fairly say that they had at last come into that state in which dividends were as nearly certain as possible in a mining undertaking. As the present prosperous condition of the enterprise is chiefly due to the exertions of the chairman, who is, moreover, one of the largest shareholders, there need be no doubt as to his anticipations being fully justified by the circumstances.

The directors of the Eclipse Gold Mining and Quartz Crushing Company are exerting themselves to carry out the resolution of May 18, reported at the time, and at which it will be remembered the urgent necessity of raising more capital for increasing the gold-saving appliances was discussed. Recent advices from Capt. Eudey strengthen the view that with these additions gold will be extracted in better paying quantities. The funds are to be provided by a further issue of ordinary shares; and the calls upon these, to the extent called up on the existing shares, will extend over not less than 16 months. The directors and their own immediate friends will take up their quota of the present issue.

Condes of Chili, 1 to 6½; the manager has arrived in England, and it is proposed to call a meeting of shareholders to receive his report. The commissioner in charge has posted his report, which is due here in three weeks time. The discoveries recently made are of great value. At 100 fms. west of the present workings on the same lode a trial has been opened up a course of rich ore 9 ft. wide, worth 90 cwt. of silver per ton of ore. Argentine, 6 to 6½; large quantities of ore are being raised from the Piqué Mine, sufficient to keep the stamps supplied. Cross-cuts are being driven at the Captain section to intersect a large lode known to be rich in gold. Several of the company's other mines are being opened up, and the supply of ore for all practical purposes would appear to be inexhaustible. The stamps are working well, and the results are expected in the course of ten days.

The market for Hydraulic or Gold Washing shares has been tolerably active. In the early part of the week Sweetland Creek shares were pressed for sale, and receded to as low as 15s.; at the close, however, a firmer tone was manifested, and many transactions followed. Birdseye Creek were also at one time nominally quoted lower, but no business was done, and the telegram announcing the clean-up would seem to show that no reason exists for a reduction in the value of the shares. Blue Tent are quiet, and close firm at quotations. Cedar Creek in request, the late telegram giving more confidence in the ultimate future of the concern.

Birdseye Creek, 1 to 1½; a telegram from the superintendent received during the week announces the result of the washing for May. Gross returns, \$8000; remittance, \$2000. As will be seen from the letter in another column, the greater part of this run was on side dirt, the blast over the main channel having failed in the firing. The return may, therefore, be considered satisfactory. Cedar Creek, ½ to ¾; Colonel Ludlum announces in a telegram to hand this week that the total product for last month amounted to 811,000, the running expenses being \$4500. In this return the result of washing on the Yankee and Badger claims has not been included, and as these two claims are amongst the best the company have at present at work the return is considered a very good one. Sweetland Creek, ½ to ¾; we have ascertained that no further news has been received from the mine since the report was issued, except that Mr. Lean was continuing the washing as heretofore. We have received numerous letters on the subject of this company. Many of the points discussed will doubtless be dealt with at the forthcoming annual meeting. Blue Tent, 3 to 3½; the last information received is to the effect that water is steadily flowing through the canal from head to mines. As the manager has been only waiting for this to wash in more energetic manner, there is no doubt but that this is now in full swing. It will be remembered that a few weeks back we mentioned that the gravel in the North Yuba claim had paid at the rate of 72 cents per inch of water for 24 hours. This is reckoned very rich in the States, and should the manager be able to wash steadily on this claim the returns are considered likely, with ample water, to be large and continuous.

With regard to British mines, the quotations show but little variation. Van, 35 to 35½; the drive by the side of the lode at the 105 is being continued. The lode will be taken down in the early part of next week, but so far as seen the driving is alongside a splendid course of ore. The driving of the 75 west has been resumed upon a lode worth 50l. per cubic fathom for the part carried. No alteration elsewhere. Van Consols, 1½ to 2½; the completion of the drawing-shaft is being hastened on as much as possible. Glyn, 3 to 3½; it is reported that the ground in the shaft continues hard for sinking, and that very valuable stopping ground for lead is being opened up in the 15. Great West Van, 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d.; the cross-cut to meet the north and south lodes at the 46 are being pushed on with vigour. An improvement in the 31 driving south has taken place during this week, which may have an important bearing on the future prospects of the mine. Cwm Dwyfor, 1 to 1½; the lode is improving in the shaft below the 10. Grogwinion, 6 to 7; the agent's monthly report states that all is going on as well as usual. Wye Valley, 5½ to 7½; the 22 has had a further improvement and is looking promising. West Wye Valley, 3½ to 4½; the 26 is reported to be yielding splendid ore. St. Harmon, 3½ to 4; the works are going on rapidly, and the bottom level is being driven west. The first general meeting is to be held on the mine at the end of the month.

Pennant, 5 to 5½; the cross-cut from the 80 is reported to have reached the lode, and to be of excellent character, promising a large yield. Pennerley, 2 to 2½; the agent's report and statement of accounts have been issued in anticipation of the forthcoming annual meeting. From the former it appears that the mine has not only considerably improved and improving, but that the agent is in a better position to deal with the produce. The accounts show a loss of about 2200l. for the year, but it is pointed out that only seven tons of ore were made instead of twelve during the period embraced by the accounts, owing to the practice adopted up to the last meeting of selling ore in advance of its production. Now no ore is shipped until it is ready for delivery; and, as the sales are again being put into regular monthly order, it is hoped profits will accrue this time. Pateley Bridge, 3½ to 4½; Lumb vein, in the south cross-cut, in 10 ft. is worth 13l. per fathom for lead ore. Fielding's vein, going west, in the east cross-cut at the 20, is worth 18l. per fathom for lead ore. In the roof over this drive the vein is worth 17l. per fathom for lead ore; the end going south-east is worth 12l. per fathom for lead ore. Sun vein, in the east drive from the bottom of shaft under Gillfield level, is steadily improving, now worth from 13l. to 16l. per fathom for lead ore. In the steps over the level, the vein is worth 18l. per fathom for lead ore. Other particulars of the general meeting held last week are given. Attention is directed by the above to the promising character of the undertaking, both from the large returns which some of the adjoining mines have made, and from the very favourable quotations presented at this mine.

Cathedral (new issue), par to ½ prem.; the ground in the shaft is being progressed, and the lode opening out again. Penstruthal, 1 to 1½; the bottom levels and shaft show now unmistakable signs of a copper lode of importance, and remembering the celebrated copper lodes formerly worked in this district, great attention will be attracted to this mine.

Quintanilla are the closing quotations—Devon Great Consols, 3 to 3½; Devon, 35½ to 36½; East Caradon, 1 to 1½; East Van, 9 to 9½; Glyn, 2½ to 3½; Great West Van, 10 to 11; Great Lacey, 17 to 17½; Hingston Down, 10 to 11; Marke Valley, 1½ to 2½; Parys Mountain, 15s. to 19s.; Pateley Bridge, 3½ to 4½; Pennerley, 2 to 2½; Penstruthal, 16s. to 18s.; Roman Gravel, 10 to 11; Tankerville, 10½ to 10¾; Tincroft, 17½ to 18½; Van, 35 to 35½; West Ashton, 15½ to 16½; West Bassett, 4½ to 5; West Chiver, 15½ to 16½; West Tankerville, 15½ to 16½; West Pateley Bridge, 5 to 5½; West Penton, 1 to 1½; Almaden and Tinto, 5½ to 6; Argentine, 6 to 6½;

Birdseye Creek, 1 to 1½; Blue Tent, 3 to 3½; Cape Copper, 42 to 44; Cedar Creek, ½ to ¾; Chontales, ¼ to ½; Colorado Terrible, ¼ to ½; Condes of Chili, 6 to 6½; Don Pedro, 1 to 1½; Eberhardt and Aurora, 8½ to 9½; Emma, ¼ to ½; Exchequer, 1½ to 2; I. X. L., 1 to 1½; Flagstaff, 1½ to 2½; Frontino and Bolivia, 2½ to 3½; Javal, ¼ to ¾; New Quebrada, 3½ to 4; Pastana, ¼ to ½; Richmond Consolidated, 8½ to 9½; St. John del Rey, 350 to 370; San Pedro, 1½ to 1¾; Sierra Buttes, 1 to 1½; South Aurora, ¾ to 1½; Sweetland Creek, ½ to ¾; Tecoma, ½ to ¾; United Mexican, 2 to 2½; Oregon Preference, 4 to 4½.

**COLLIERIES.**—During the past week but few transactions have taken place in colliery shares, and no change in prices is to be recorded. These, however, show a firmer tendency in consequence of the feeling which is gaining ground that the iron and coal trades have both reached their worst. There is not much demand for the lower classes of iron, but there is plenty of business doing in the best brands, while higher prices and a good demand for steam coal is noticeable throughout the country; indeed, the exports are slowly increasing, and a revival in trade, though not actually present, seems by no means far distant. This should be recognised by the public, whose experiences of foreign loans, &c., must necessarily turn their attention to our home industries, among which there are few better investments to be found than shares in good coal mines. Where the work is being carried on in an economical and extensive manner collieries are now making fair profits, and when trade revives will be among the few things which will command the favour of the investing public. Cardiff and Swansea shares close at 2½ to 2¾. We understand that the Pentre Colliery is making capital profits, turning out about 1000 tons per day. The Swansea Works, however, are not nearly so successful, the coal being soft, and the prices in that neighbourhood very low.

Bilson and Crump close at 8 to 8½; firm; this colliery is turning out about 400 tons per day, and is making a fair profit. It is said the board has purchased the Fox Bridge Colliery, which will be offered to the shareholders so soon as the title can be perfected. This colliery is raising about 2500 tons per week, and it is believed the two properties will together turn out a profit of about 3,000l. per annum. Ailsam, 6 to 6½; the latest news is very satisfactory. Coal was struck last Thursday night in the Lily pit, and we hope to be able to report the thickness of the seam and its quality next week. At the "Old Firm" pits it is expected that a seam of coal tops the Hollin coal. Should this prove correct an advance in the shares may be looked for. Llay Halls, 9 to 9½. Chapel House shares are steady, at 3½ to 3¾.

Notice of a reduction of 15 percent. in the wages of the colliers in the Lancashire district has been given, and it is anticipated will be submitted to quickly. The reduction is to date from the 1st inst. This is a matter of some importance at the Chapel House, where the profits are already of a most satisfactory character, still being over 2s. per ton. The new pit is down 310 yds., and it is anticipated another seam of coal will be cut shortly. Everything is going on satisfactorily. In the South Yorkshire district the colliers have returned to work at a reduction of 12½ percent. The Northern district will now, no doubt, try for a reduction, and the miners in the South having given will, no doubt, obtain it without trouble. Thorp's Gweller and New Sharlston shares close about the same as last week. In the Birmingham district prices remain as follows: Cannock and Huntington, ½ prem.; Perry, 1 prem.; Sandwell Park, 2½ prem.; West Sandwell, 17 prem.; Spon Lane, ½ dis.; and West Cannock new shares, 2 prem.

**HALIFAX.**—June 15: The following quotations are from Mr. J. H. Thackrah's list:—Halifax and Huddersfield Union Bank, 29½; Halifax Joint-Stock Bank, 29½; Halifax Commercial Bank, 23½; London and Yorkshire Bank, 27s. 3d.; John Crossley's, 12½; Whitworth and Co., 8; Elland Gas, 20; Rastick Gas, 18½; Bradford Brick and Tile, A, 21; ditto, B, 7; Charlestown Brick and Tile, 10; Ripponden Commercial, 11; Hebden Bridge Cotton, 10; Yorkshire Boiler Insurance Company, 22s. 6d.; Norton Brothers, 8.

At Swansea Ticketing, on Tuesday, 1905 tons of copper ore were sold, realising 21,897l. 0s. 6d. The particulars of the sale were:—Average standard for 9 per cent. produce, 977.11s. 3d.; average produce, 17½; average price per ton, 13l. 4s. 4d.; quantity of fine copper, 328 tons 14½ cwt. The following are the particulars of the two last sales:—

Date	Tons	Standard	Produce	Per ton	Per unit	Ore-copper
May 21	1412	97 6 6	22 11 16	£17 6 5	15s. 3d.	£76 5 0
June 13	1905	97 11 3	17½	13 4	15 1	75 15 0

Compared with the last sale, the advance has been in the standard 5s., and in the price per ton of ore about 10d. The Cape ores gave a produce of 30 1-16, and sold at 22l. 19s. 2d. per ton, being at the rate of 15s. 3d. per unit, or a standard about 5s. below that of the whole sale. On June 27 there will be offered for sale 1031 tons, from the Cape, Berehaven, Australian, and Cronebane Mines.

The TALLYBONT SILVER LEAD MINING COMPANY has been formed with a capital of 30,000l., in shares of 1l. each, to acquire the mine, of the same name, about seven miles from Aberystwyth; it is only, as will be seen from the prospectus in another column, three miles from the railway station of Llanfihangel, on the Cambrian Railway; the River Lerry runs past the washing-floors, and affords ample water power the whole year round. Miners are abundant in the village. Therefore the company possess local advantages rarely equalled and very conducive to the success of a mining company; but more important than these considerations is the fact that this property contains several ascertained and proved most valuable lodes of silver lead. Capt. Glanville, in concluding a detailed report on the mine, states that the property could not be better situated for economical working. They have ample water power at all seasons for driving their machinery—a most valuable consideration. Since the crusher and jiggers have been supplied with new sieves and classifiers, and the other alterations, and improvements made, machinery is working perfectly. They are now dressing another parcel of ore for market. From the appearance of the lodes at their present shallow depth, and the being in virgin ground, he considers their present richness to be merely a reflection of the vast deposit of metal they will shortly meet with.

The allotment letters of the Public Supply Association were posted on Wednesday.

**MINERAL STATISTICS.**—It is gratifying to learn that Mr. R. Hunt is very far advanced with his Statistics for 1875, so that their issue within a very brief period may be anticipated. Mr. Hunt is at present hard at work in the Black Country, and has recently been over all the mining districts between Whitehaven on the one side and Newcastle on the other, so that it is evident that he is using every effort to secure the same degree of accuracy in the forthcoming issue as in those which have already been published.

**FRONTINO AND BOLIVIA.**—The general meeting of shareholders was held on Tuesday, at the Cannon-street Hotel, when a dividend of 1s. per share, equal to 5 per cent. per annum on the paid-up capital of the company, was declared. When it is remembered that some two years ago this company was in great straits, and the property mortgaged for funds to carry on the mine, it must be highly satisfactory to the shareholders to know they have so rapidly changed into a profitable concern, as they will find by the published accounts to Dec. 31 that the profits for the past year amount to about 11,000l., and but for the heavy debts paid off the shareholders would have had a larger dividend. The success of the company is due to the board of directors, who have so successfully fought every difficulty, and the great experience brought to bear on the company's property by the manager in South America (Mr. Robert B. White), to whom too much praise cannot be given.

**TANYRALLT (Cardiganshire).**—This mine continues to open out well, another 10 tons having been sold this month, making an average of 10 tons per month for the year, and there is a gradually increasing reserve of ore on the floors, so that even if the mine were to stop they would continue the sales for two or three months. In driving south in the 40 there has been a new shoot of ore discovered worth about 15 cwt. per fathom. The ore in the north end produces 3½ tons per fathom.

**SOUTH CROFTY.**—We are informed that the statement recently circulated respecting the engineering of this mine is incorrect. Whatever the consumption of coal may be Mr. Michell, engineer, has nothing to do with it, and his name ought not to have been brought forward, as he is not the engineer of the mine.

**SIERRA BUTTES (Go'd.).**—Sierra Buttes Mine: Receipts, \$32,770; total California expenses, including cost of mining and milling, \$20,997.—Plumas Eureka Mine: Receipts, \$36,335; total California expenses, including cost of mining and milling, \$13,920; tons of sulphurets saved, 38; tons of sulphurets amalgamated, 48; yield of sulphurets per ton, 87s.

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## Notices to Correspondents.

In the summary of Australian mining intelligence, given in the Supplement to last week's Journal, reference was made to a mining undertaking in South Australia under the heading of "Yorke Peninsula," which should, however, have been "Yelta." The Yorke Peninsula Mining Company, a report from which also appeared in the Journal of that date, were glad to see, seemed to show that operations were progressing at their Kurrilla Mine (that being the only one of their properties that they are as yet developing), with very favourable prospects of its becoming a largely productive property.

**COST OF TIN SMELTING.**—"H. J." (Geelong).—The smelters of tin make a very great secret of the cost of their operations, so that it is almost impossible to give the exact cost of smelting a ton of tin. It is known, however, to be very insignificant compared with the value of the product, and the first cost of the furnaces and plant is small.

**HYDRAULIC MINING.**—A friend of mine in South Africa desires to obtain hydraulic hoses and nozzles to stand a pressure of water from an elevation of 150 to 200 ft. to work alluvial deposits situated at the outside—say, 100 yards from the water race. Will some correspondents kindly supply, through the Journal, particulars as to strength of hose required, cost of hose, nozzles, and so on? Will they also state whether it is necessary to have a greater fall than 150 ft.? It should be mentioned that great force will be required in consequence of large boulders in the wash; the fall for tailings is good, and over a waterfall 300 ft. high.—S. B. G.

**SLATE TRADE.**—Will some reader kindly oblige by forwarding (with any other particulars they may feel disposed) the comparative prices for several years back, showing the upward progress of this prosperous trade?—S. F.

**TIN SMELTING.**—Can any correspondent give me, through the Journal, any information as to what it costs in England to smelt a ton of (say) 65 per cent. tin ore? I am inclined to think at the present price for tin the smelting of that metal in Australia cannot be remunerative, but have some difficulty in obtaining the particulars of costs.

**COPPER SMELTING.**—I am seeking a work on copper smelting, more especially treating of blast furnaces adapted to that branch of metallurgy, and shall be glad if any correspondent will refer me to the latest and most reliable book on the subject.—W.

**COAL-CUTTING MACHINERY.**—The address of the manufacturers of the Winstanley and Barker Coal-Cutting Machine is required for a firm wishing to communicate with them.—D. M.: Mansfield, June 14.

**Received.**—"South Australia." The proceedings referred to a local company, no one successfully carried on under London management—"Mentor" (Lincoln). We could not publish the statement, written to some paper devoted to such matters—"E. A. R." (Durwin, California). We have not received the particulars—"T. E." (Cottbridge).—"W. R." (Leeds).—"Shareholder" (St. Albans).—"Constant Reader."—"A Shareholder in Rossa Grande" (Minas Geraes).—"Miner" (Aberystwyth). Too personal for publication.

## THE MINING JOURNAL.

Railway and Commercial Gazette.

LONDON, JUNE 17, 1876.

## FRENCH IMPORT DUTIES ON IRON.

The Memorandum of the British Iron Trade Association addressed to the Foreign Secretary, the Earl of Derby, by its committee appointed to consider the duties on iron imported into France is a highly interesting one, and furnishes a vast number of valuable facts which cannot be too carefully studied by all connected with the iron trade, whether in France or England. It is explained that when the Treaty of Commerce of 1860 was negotiated there was no association representing the iron trade, as Chambers of Commerce represented various manufacturing districts, and that consequently the French Tariff of 1860 on iron, unlike that on many other articles, was conceived neither in the interest of French commerce nor in that of the French Exchequer. The British Iron Trade Association has undertaken to demonstrate this proposition, and at the same time to prove that while the French are not benefited by the existence of the present state of affairs the British ironmaster is shut out from a market in which he would otherwise do a large business. The French duty is not *ad valorem*, but one of so many francs per ton, according to the description of iron, and changing this into percentages it is shown that under the treaty about 65 per cent. on free-board prices was levied on pig-iron, subsequently reduced to 55 per cent., and in 1864 to 28 per cent.; whilst rails pay 38 per cent.; Staffordshire marked bars, 29 per cent.; and plates, 35 per cent. The duty on ordinary castings was fixed at about 30 per cent., and on cheap wrought-iron wares, such as wrought-iron tubes, in the same or a still higher proportion. Now, it certainly appears unreasonable that the French should demand nearly as high a percentage upon a useful article like iron as the English take upon the cheap wines of France, which are not to the taste of most Englishmen and can be quite as well dispensed with.

In reminding the Foreign Secretary that in order to assist domestic production it was stipulated by France that this country should not, during the existence of the treaty, impose any export duty on coal, the committee draw attention to what is an imaginary rather than a real ground of complaint, since even Mr. Lowe would have shrunk from suggesting an export duty on coal at all, and much less upon coal exports to France only, whilst other countries were exempt. Again, when the bugbear of the probable exhaustion of our coal fields was raised, and Mr. Gladstone proposed as a remedy to pay off the National Debt, he did not suggest a tax on coal, and many of his colleagues, anticipating the possibility of such a tax, were loud in their declarations of its inadmissibility. The reason is obvious. Whatever secures remunerative employment for the working classes of a nation promotes the welfare and happiness of the entire population, and it is impossible to pay workmen well unless the raw material which they use is relatively cheap, and this fact is nowhere better recognised than among the working men of Great Britain, who gave substantial evidence of this by almost entirely withholding support from colliers when on strike, "because everybody wants coals cheap," although they freely subscribe to keep men on strike if they do not themselves require the product of their labour. The French are particularly solicitous for the welfare of the working classes, and hence it is found that a patent for an invention in France becomes practically invalid unless the manufacture of that which is protected is carried on in France, whilst it is equally in the interest of the working man—to secure him an abundance of remunerative employment—that French legislators so much approve the system of "franchise temporaire," or "acquits à caution," which permits the entry free of duty of materials to be worked up for export.

The figures furnished by the committee are really startling. It appears that during the five years preceding the signing of the treaty the exports of pig-iron to France averaged 74,247 tons per annum; in the first five years of the treaty being in force the average increased to 138,116, but in the five years ending 1870 it declined again to 104,687 tons per annum, and in the similar period ending 1875 it returned to nearly the normal quantity, being but 82,400 tons per annum. This is the more remarkable as the exports of British pigs "to all countries" increased in the 10 years ending 1875 by about 270 per cent., and at the same time shows how utterly incompetent the free-traders who represented England in the negotiations for the 1860 treaty were to estimate the probable effect of a reduced import duty upon iron into France. With regard to the trade in bar-iron, rails, chairs, bolt-rod, hoops, angles, wire, sheets, and plates they were still more at fault. Previous to 1860 the export of bar-iron to France averaged 10,063 tons; since 1870 it has averaged 83 tons; similarly, the exports of rails, bars, &c., have fallen from 18,240 tons to 23 tons, of sheets and plates from 4956 tons to 2321 tons per annum, and so on with other descriptions; but it would be well to ask whether much of this decline is not due rather to the constantly decreasing quality of the British iron sent into the market than to the change of duty. If it be so the doctrines of Cobden and the Manchester school of free-traders generally might still be worthy of retention, but the papers and discussions which have come before the Iron and Steel Institute certainly point in the opposite direction, and demonstrate that free trade brings about a low priced and debased quality of product, and that the temporary prosperity resulting from opening an enlarged market by its aid results in the speedy loss of that market altogether.

It is remarked that during the 15 years the treaty has been in force not only has France become almost independent of British iron, but, as the committee of the British Iron Trade Association state, French manufacturers have become considerable exporters to

neutral markets. Again, the committee mentions that the competition of continental countries with each other and with Great Britain for the trade of the world in all its branches is daily becoming more intense—Germany, Belgium, and even Switzerland are becoming from year to year more formidable rivals to France—and it may be that the movement which is gaining strength in that country in favour of the removal of all duties on raw produce may justify the Government in abolishing the duty at any rate on pig-iron. The committee consider, and are beyond doubt correct in doing so, that this abolition would produce an increased development both of the internal and external trade in French castings, owing to the admirable skill of the French ironfounders, inasmuch as under the system of "acquits à caution" French ironfounders have competed successfully with the great Scotch and Cleveland establishments for the supply of cast-iron pipes to Germany. But if, the committee suggest, it should not be deemed expedient to give up at once the revenue now derived from the duty there can, we think, be little doubt that a rate of (say) 5 frs. (the Belgian duty), still equal to nearly 10 per cent. on the present average price of Scotch and Middlesbrough pig-iron—the system of "acquits à caution" being at the same time abolished—would almost immediately yield a revenue as large as that now obtained at the higher duty. It will be obvious that even a 10 per cent. duty with the abolition of "acquits à caution" would practically restore to the British the control of the market, so that whatever can be done by British ironmasters to bring about that change is entitled to the utmost support.

The duty proposed by the British Iron Trade Association would give 16s. or 20 frs. per ton, or per 1000 kilos on Staffordshire bars; 12s. or 15 frs. on iron rails; 17s. or 21 frs. on Bessemer steel; 18s. 6d. or 23 frs. on ship and boiler plates; 24s. or 30 frs. on sheets; 7s. or 8 frs. on chairs; and 10s. 6d. or 13 frs. on pipes. The Committee request that the substance of their memorandum may be put forward in the course of the approaching negotiations with France with the view to obtain such a modification of the present duties as may promote the trade in iron between the two countries, and although it is unreasonable to expect that Frenchmen, and especially French economists, will accept the statements of the Association as entirely unassailable, it may be hoped that the memorandum will at least have the effect of making more extensively known the strong points of the rivals of Great Britain, and thus enabling the ironmasters of this country to compete more successfully with them in the markets of the world.

## THE IRON AND COAL TRADES.

A careful reflection upon the state of the iron and coal industries as they present themselves at this moment leads us to believe that, to say the least, the present condition and the early future prospects are less unpromising than they have been for some few weeks past. We think we see the shadow of the fringe of the proverbial silver lining in the overhanging cloud. For the first time during several months it has been possible to announce the exportation of an increased quantity of iron. The returns for May show that our total exports of iron and steel in that month were 233,056 tons, compared with 218,863 tons in May last year, though a decrease of more than 14,000 tons upon May, 1874. The increase, therefore, of May this year over May, 1875, is 14,193 tons. It is, however, a very unsatisfactory truth that, notwithstanding we have exported thus largely by comparison, we have received for the product less by 242,202, than we received for the smaller quantity exported in May last year. The values are instructive. Our total exports of iron and steel in May this year realised 2,082,931; in 1875, 2,325,133; and in 1874, 3,147,571. Doubtless the values, as compared with the quantities, show depreciation as to price, but the growth of quantities reveals more business. The reports from the industrial centres as to nearly all the industries are at present scarcely better than they were a few weeks ago. Advantage was taken of the Whitsun week largely to close mills and workshops the whole seven days—the instances being the exception where work was begun on the Wednesday. The stocks of pig-iron in Cleveland have increased upon the month by 4000 tons, but the make has increased by 10,000 tons. Thus we have larger sales during May than in April by 6000 tons. Against this is to be set the fact that the output of pig-iron in Scotland is decreasing—the 116 furnaces now in blast in Scotland being a decrease upon May last year of seven; yet Scotch stocks are increasing. Part of this reduction in Scotland is due to the cheaper rate at which the iron can be made in Cleveland, since the users in the northern kingdom are still importing rather largely of Cleveland iron. What we have written is not wholly discouraging. It must be read, we are happy to say, in connection with three other far from unsatisfactory features.—1. There are men who are at this moment buying Cleveland pig-iron as an investment. They are stacking it in the belief that it will pay them to do so at current prices, and wait till a revival in trade enables them to sell it at a good profit.—2. The altogether less cheerless news from the East, accompanied with Mr. Disraeli's explanation the other night in the House of Commons, has helped considerably to remove from the minds of not a few traders a very gloomy apprehension which was just beginning to appear.—3. There are to-day more enquiries in the market from joint-stock companies and corporations for finished and foundry iron, together with coal, than have appeared for months past. This last fact would seem to indicate that in the minds of not a few prices have certainly reached their lowest. For ourselves we cannot say that we wholly share in this belief. We think that the point at which quotations will begin to re-ascend has not yet been touched in all cases. The direction in colliers' wages is still downward. So long as this lasts men of prolonged experience in the purchasing market will decline, many of them, to enter with freedom. The appearances for the moment are less gloomy than they were, but foreign competition continues to be so severe that an expectation that the shadow of the fringe of the silver lining will be quickly followed by the peeping out of a streak of the lining itself must not be enthusiastically entertained. Nevertheless, it is cause for thankfulness that matters are no worse. Dire suffering there is nowhere, and pauperism is on the decline.

## RAILWAY IRON EXPORTS.

Our exports of railway iron do not present very encouraging or brilliant results. They have almost entirely collapsed as regards the United States, which only took 2 tons from us in May, as compared with 1283 tons in May, 1875, and 10,097 tons in May, 1874; but a considerable—or at any rate, an increased—demand prevailed in May on Italian and Indian account, and the month resulted in an aggregate export of 50,229 tons, as compared with 49,293 tons in May, 1875, and 97,587 tons in May, 1874. The aggregate shipments for the five months ending May 31 this year were 144,723 tons, against 201,219 tons in the corresponding period of 1875, and 335,093 tons in the corresponding period of 1874. The exports have thus experienced a rather considerable further decline this year, but at the same time it is satisfactory to note that the decline was arrested in May. The exports of our rails to the United States have been almost annihilated this year, having fallen to May 31 to 96 tons, as compared with 13,883 tons in the corresponding period of 1875, and 52,445 tons in the corresponding period of 1874. To British America we sent to May 31 this year 20,593 tons of rails, as compared with 39,380 tons in the corresponding period of 1875; to British India, 20,569 tons, against 14,464 tons; and to Australia, 12,611 tons, against 36,299 tons. Some improvement has thus taken place in the Indian demand, but a large decline has occurred in the exports to Canada and Australasia. The reduction which has occurred in the price of rails this year—or rather during the last two years—upon the English market has failed to restore to us the American demand. On the contrary, it has shrivelled up to such an extent that it may almost be said to have ceased to exist. The prosecution of the Indian State lines appears to have become rather more vigorous of late, and it has, at any rate, involved the consumption of a by no means unimportant quantity of railway material. The Canadian demand has become greatly curtailed, and the Australian demand has given out to rather an alarming extent. It would appear

that for the time the Australians have been rather over doing it in tailing their purchases of rails. Nevertheless, the Australian enterprise will be, of course, viewed with suspicion. Perhaps it is better that it should be so, as it is clearly more desirable that we should send railway iron to Canada sparingly, than that we should send it to that quarter lavishly, and then not receive payment for it.

The main question suggested by the figures which we have been for many months past in the price of British rails begin to tell upon the external demand for them? This is a very interesting and important question; indeed, the whole immediate future of the British iron trade may be said to depend upon the answer. We cannot give the answer at present with any precision, but we fancy that there is little doubt that the Anglo-Indian Government is taking advantage of the greater cheapness of rails, and is laying them more freely in consequence. The Anglo-Indian authorities exhibited a great reluctance to proceed with their contemplated and authorised State lines when rails attained the severe prices at which they were quoted three or four years since. Now that we find the same authorities vigorously completing lines which they formerly carried on in only a *festina lente* fashion, we can but surmise that they are an old but forcible and vigorous illustration, they are making hay while the sun shines. Is it too much to assume that similar hay-making will be witnessed on the part of sundry colonies and foreign countries? We incline to think that it is not.

**THE RUSSIAN IRON TRADE.**—The English iron trade is threatened with exclusion from Russian markets, the Russian Government having determined to accede to the requests of the manufacturers of that country, and to place such impositions upon the importation of rails as will render it impossible for English makers to enter into competition with the Russian rail-makers. The following are the measures which have received the sanction of the Government, and which will be made public in the course of a day or two:—1. That in future a duty shall be imposed upon all imported rails.—2. That all concessions to Russian railway companies shall contain a clause compelling them to use not less than one-half rails of Russian manufacture.—3. To allow a premium to rail manufacturers.—4. To give them orders for work extending over four or five years.—5. To give them a special cheap rate of transit not only for their manufactured rails, but also for their ores, pig-iron, fuel, and, in fact, all the materials of the trade. It will be noticed that unless vigorous action be taken by those who are interested in the English trade these measures are more than sufficient to effect their purpose. Labour in Russia is exceedingly cheap; new mines of the richest hematite and magnetic ores are being discovered and opened daily, and a great development is being made in mines already opened. Thus in every respect, excepting in the abundance of coal, Russia will have the advantage of us. The engineers and tool makers have also taken up the matter, and there is no doubt that concessions will also be made to them very shortly.

**COAL AND IRON IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Sales of English, Scotch, and American canal coal at Boston have been confined to small lots. Cumberland (Maryland) coal has ruled low at various shipping ports; considerable sales have been made. Penn and Westmoreland coal has been selling at \$4.10 per ton, delivered at Philadelphia. Anthracite coal has been dull at Boston, and both shippers and retailers have reported a light business. Retail sales of anthracite have been made at Boston at \$7 to \$7.50 per ton. The deliveries of coal thus far this year by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company have been 1,470,335 tons, as compared with 813,569 tons in the corresponding period of 1875. American rails have been quoted at the works at \$4.90 to \$4.95 per ton currency. Old rails have been \$2.25 to \$2.35 per ton currency; wrought scrap has brought \$2.50 to \$3.00 per ton currency; Coltness pig has been quoted at New York at \$3.00 to \$3.10 per ton currency.

**CHANNEL TUNNEL.**—Mr. W. Firth, of Leeds writes:—The actual length of the subaqueous portion of the projected tunnel is 22 miles, as there is a land length on each side of the tunnel of about four miles, and in the ventilation of these there is no difficulty. I assume that the engineers will finally adopt the double-tunnel arrangement, and in that case I do not think it will be difficult to establish a tolerably good ventilation throughout 22 miles of under-sea tunneling, even if the present coke-burning locomotive remains unimproved. But there is the expectation that a material improvement will be effected therein, and that a much less volume of gaseous product will be permitted to escape from the engine, and this would modify the apprehensions which you have so well explained. There is now going on a remarkable development of the application of compressed air to underground haulage in our mines over long distances; and I have not the least doubt that if the use of the common locomotive should be inadmissible, there will be a perfectly effective system of haulage devised by the use of the immense power of air under high compression. The only real difficulty which presents itself to my mind is whether the lower chalk in the line of soundings from St. Margaret's Cliff to Stangate is true and regular in its formation, with a density and freedom from fissures which will prevent the passage of sea-water into the tunnelling workings. I have had some experience in mining under the chalk, and I am inclined to think that in the projected tunnel there will not be more water than by mechanical arrangements can be easily dealt with. The difficulty as to raising the capital has apparently vanished, for it is well understood that the French capitalists have manifested their entire confidence in both the practicality and the commercial value of the enterprise; and after their wonderful achievement with the Suez Canal in the face of much discouragement, and now that there are united in this project the most famous engineers of the two countries, we may reasonably expect that the great work will be accomplished, to the enduring honour and advantage of both countries.

**COLLIERY ACCIDENTS.**—In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, in answer to questions from Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Cross said that an accident occurred at the Moss Pit Mine, near Wigan, on Saturday April 1, and the manager's report of it reached the Mines Inspector on the following day. The Mines Inspector visited the mine on Tuesday, the 14th, having had an engagement which prevented his doing so on the Monday. With the Assistant Inspector he then examined the mine, and they both then agreed that the ventilation was inadequate, and that gas was visible at the edge of a gob near the 11th, and an inquest was held, at which the Inspector attended when on carefully cross-examining the witnesses he failed to elicit any evidence as to the gas being present at the time of the accident. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against the person who discharged the shot. Previous to the enquiry the Inspector looked on the case as one that would furnish good cause for a prosecution, but the evidence given before the Coroner convinced him that a conviction could not be obtained. Another accident occurred at the Bryn Hall Colliery, Wigan, on May 2. The manager's report reached the Inspector on the 4th. It was then stated that six men had been slightly injured, and the Inspector visited the mine on Monday, the 8th. On the 9th one of the injured men died, and an inquest was opened, which was adjourned. At the adjourned enquiry the evidence went to show that the mine was well ventilated and clear of gas, and the verdict of the jury was that neither the foreman nor the workmen were to blame, but they recommended greater precautions in working the mine in future. The Inspector said the result of his inspection of the mine was satisfactory, and he found no gas, but, unfortunately, through a mistaken estimate of the injuries sustained at the time, and the expectation that no enquiry would be necessary, the shot-hole from which the powder was stated to have been blown out was not left untouched, which would have afforded



Definite evidence of the character of the accident. It was a question whether under the Act the mineowner was required to retain the mine in the position in which it was left by the accident until the Inspector had made his visit. The Inspector's opinion was that the circumstances did not seem to warrant the institution of proceedings in that case. It was, however, to be regretted that the Inspector did not put off any other engagement to go and inspect the mine immediately he heard of the accident, and the Home Office had given instructions to ensure that that course would be taken in future.

#### REPORT FROM CORNWALL.

June 15.—This has not by any means been a mining week, for its chief event in the county has been the holding of the annual exhibition of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Society at Liskeard, which proved a thorough success, and was very largely attended. The show included a number of steam-engines in work, among which there were several handy little verticals. There were no articles at the exhibition, however, which had any special bearing upon the mining industry, or on any previous occasions stone-breakers have been working. The feeling of the adventurers in South Wheal Frances with regard to the retirement of Mr. Penrose has been remarkably shown in the election of his successor to the purshership. Mr. Abbot, of the election, was chosen unanimously, really on the recommendation of Mr. Penrose, on the faith of which proxies in his favour were sent to the extent of 1500 shares, while in the locality where Mr. Abbot is known the feeling was not less strong; this cannot but be gratifying to Mr. Penrose, though it does not lessen our regret at the circumstances under which he felt it due to himself to cause the vacancy. Mr. Bisset, of Toldy, has given further proof of his interest in all matters connected with mining by paying an underground visit to the portion of his domains. East Pool was the mine selected for the purpose, and this Mr. Bisset descended by the skip-road, with Mr. Bidden, his steward, Capt. Hocking his toller, and the agents, Capt. Maynard, Bishop, and Tippet. The party reached the bottom level, where Mr. Bisset broke some ore, and thus became a mining effective. They were about 3½ hours underground, and on returning to the surface were received by Mr. R. R. Broad, the Chairman of the committee, the purser, and clerks and a large body of miners, who cheered most heartily this true friend of mines and miners.

Capt. White is doing good work at Wheal Pevor. He is opening out a capital mine, and is very sanguine that ere long it will prove profitable to the adventurers. There has been a very appreciable diminution in the loss on the four months' working as compared with the four months previous, and as the costs are also being reduced, should the price of tin go up 4s. or 5s. a ton it is not unlikely that the mine will be able to pay the purser well for a long time past. The difficulties and reverses they have met with since the concern was first started would have daunted many a stout heart, but they have such confidence in the future of the mine that they regularly and cheerfully pay their calls, in the sure and certain hope that it will yet turn up a trump.

Favourable accounts are forthcoming of South Roskear. An excellent improvement is reported in the bottom of Dunkin's shaft, where the lode at present is 5 ft. wide, with a fine course of tin, worth 60s. a fathom. Should this continue, South Roskear will give promise to become one of the best mines in the district. Captain Bisset, of Tavistock, is the managing agent, and all that practical experience and skill can do will be brought to bear to make the mine a success, and to realise the expectations of the shareholders. The shares, I understand, are mainly in the hands of Glasgow gentlemen, and I have heard surprise expressed that Cornishmen have so little interest in it. But the explanation of this is that the meetings are held in Glasgow, and the people in the county have no opportunity of knowing what is going on, and therefore it can hardly be wondered at that they are not much interested in the concern. But I have on many occasions heard the Cornishmen speak of it in the highest terms by gentlemen residing in the districts to whom opinions of a great deal of authority can safely be attached, and if the committee could see their way clear to holding meetings on the mine—say twice a year—as well as in Glasgow, it would soon be found that Cornishmen would take a real interest in the development of the property, and that the district and the adventurers would alike be benefited by it. An interesting fact in connection with South Roskear has been brought to my notice. A copy of a ticketing paper, which was in my possession, dated July, 1777, close upon a 100 years ago, shows that at that time the mine, which then included Wheal Gerry and Wheal Chace, was the only mine which sold copper at the ticketing at Redruth. Whether this was for any time I am unable to say, but South Roskear in past days has been remarkably rich for copper, and I hope that as a tin mine it will have an equally successful career.

The desire for experimenting in new inventions is extending, in a gratifying manner throughout the two counties. Pneumatic stamps, boring machines, and Frue vanners are all being tried with the view to their introduction into our mines. The pneumatics stamps of Mr. Husband's, of Hayle, have been tried at Great Wheal Gerry with very great success; Scholl's stamps have been and will still further be tried at Wheal Kitty, St. Agnes; the Barrow borer has been at work at Dolcoath for some little time, but has not proved the success that was generally expected from it. It is fair, however, to say that the patentees complain that it has not been fairly worked, and are now to carry on the trial under different conditions. The Frue vanner has been in operation at New Consols for some months, but here the larger facilities do not seem to have been afforded, and the vanner will be put to a severe test at West Soken, where every facility will be given to prove its value. At West Maria Capt. Skeels is about to try the McKean boring machine, of which great things are said. The McKean drills are being largely used all over the world for mining, tunnelling, quarrying, and sub-marine boring, and they are said to surpass all others for their durability, compactness, and power. The advantages claimed for them are that they contain the fewest parts, act without shock, and any of the operating parts, work with a lower pressure, and may be worked with a higher pressure than any other kind, and that they may be even used with safety to 1500 feet per minute. There is no doubt that a machine of each power as this would be invaluable in our copper and tin mines, and as the matter seems now to be taken up so generally and earnestly throughout the two counties it would be well that the trial of the McKean drill at West Maria Mine should be witnessed by as many practical men as can make it convenient to be present on the occasion. In this connection Capt. Skeels has thrown out a valuable suggestion, which I hope to see acted upon. It is that, that a permanent committee should be established, consisting of lords, mine managers, purser, and all others interested in the matter, for the purpose of enquiring into and testing the value of every invention that may be introduced into the county calculated to be for the benefit of the mines, that all experiments should be under their cognizance and authority, and at the joint expense of all who are associated with the movement, the mines bearing their proportion upon a basis that might easily be determined upon hereafter. It certainly seems to me that an association of this kind would lead to much practical good, and that the superiority of the different inventions, as well as their applicability to Cornish mining, would speedily be determined. —*Western Daily Mercury.*

#### TRADE OF THE TYNE AND WEAR.

June 15.—There is little new to report in connection with the Tyne and Wear. A good business has been done lately in steam coal from the Northumberland coal field, and in Durham the demand for various kinds of coal has been stimulated to a certain extent by the midland strike. The demand for coke has continued fair in the pig-iron trade. Although a bad paying one at present, it continues a great trade in Cleveland and Cumberland, which is almost exclusively supplied from the Durham coal field. The position of the Durham collieries continue, on the whole, bad, and as might be expected the owners are compelled to demand another serious reduction in the rate of wages. A conference took place at the Wood Memorial Hall, Newcastle, on Tuesday, between the delegates of the Miners' Association and the executive of the Miners' Union, the result was the owners came to the following resolution unanimously: "This Association regrets that the Durham Miners' Union has met the owners with a refusal to entertain the question, and not by an expression of readiness to accept such reduction as the owners might show by facts and figures to be needed. Under these circumstances the owners feel that the only mode of averting the disastrous effect of a suspension of work is to offer to submit to open arbitration in the usual manner their claim for a reduction of the present wages of 1s. per ton on an underground labour, and 10 per cent. on aboveground labour, to take effect on July 1. In the event of this proposal being accepted before the expiration of the week, which the owners feel compelled to give next Saturday, then notices to be given by the miners' delegates it was resolved to withhold the serving of the notices for a few days. The great swing bridge on the Tyne, at Newcastle, was opened yesterday. Any ceremony in connection with the opening will be deferred until the bridge is swung to admit of the Europa passing. It is Sir W. Armstrong's works at Elswick. It is the largest work of the kind in England. Total length between the abutments, 530 ft.; width of roadway, 22 ft.; footpaths, 9 ft. The six spans of the bridge are of the following:—Two are in the centre to open by the swing, each giving 103 ft. clear water way; that on the north side is 99 ft. long over the river, and that on the south side 71 ft.; another span on the Newcastle side for the quay extension is 30 ft., and on the

south side for the proposed Gateshead quay is 21 ft. 6 in. The total length of the swing span is 278 ft. 6 in., and its weight 1500 tons. There is a clear headway above high-water mark under the swing of 16 ft. 10 in. The elevation of the valve house platforms is 23 ft., and to the top of the lantern 49 ft. To move this mighty structure only one hydraulic engine of 60-horse power will be employed, the steam-engine for pumping purposes being a third of that power.

There was a fair attendance at Middlesbrough, on Tuesday, and, on the whole, a slightly better tone was manifested, consequent chiefly on the satisfactory returns of makers' stocks, and on account of a continuously fair enquiry for shipment. There can, however, be no elasticity about the trade while there are so many rail mills closed. One was added to the number—Messrs. Hopkins, Gilkes, and Co. (Limited)—on Saturday, at Middlesbrough. The workmen at Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co. (Limited), whose notices expired, were continued in employment on a day to day engagement. An enquiry for all sorts of finished iron is reported, which may help some works to keep going which are already employed, but which is not sufficient to justify works which have been unemployed for a long time. They will generally have to remain until work on a larger scale comes in. Any demand which appears is almost entirely for light rails. There is scarcely any enquiry for bars, and plate makers report business in their department as getting dull. The prices of finished iron do not materially vary from late quotations. Rails are about 6s. 6d. for ordinary sections, and 6s. for light rails; also plates, 7s. 6d.; common bars, 6s. 7s. 6d.; puddled bars, 4s. 10s. In the pig iron trade there is a very limited enquiry for grey forge, and prices are relatively lower as compared with the former numbers. Quotations are about—No. 1, 50s.; No. 3, 45s. 6d. to 4s.; No. 4, 43s. 6d. to 44s. net cash. There are lower figures quoted by merchants in some cases, but makers generally do not feel inclined to sell below these rates. There is nothing fresh in the wages question. The prices of coal and coke remain low. There is but a small demand, especially for manufacturing coal, and prices are quoted, for unscreened, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. at the pits. Coke, 10s. to 11s. ditto.

FATAL EXPLOSION OF GAS IN TURSDALE COLLIERY.—An adjourned inquest was held on Tuesday at the Thirstington Hotel, West Cornforth, by Mr. Sattle, coroner, touching the death of Thomas Stewart, aged 27, a hewer, who died on May 27 from injuries he received in the above colliery on the 15th ult. The original inquest was opened on May 30, but was adjourned for the attendance of the deputy overman, Daniel Gillings, who was severely burnt, together with a boy named Robt. Jackson, by the same shot from which Stewart received his injuries. Mr. Bell, the Government Inspector of Mines, was present, and at the request of the coroner examined the witnesses. The owners of Turstable Colliery were represented by Mr. A. F. Stevenson, of Holywell, their manager, and Mr. Stevenson, solicitor, Darlington; whilst Mr. W. H. Oliver, of Durham, was present on behalf of the Durham Miners' Association. Thomas Stoddart, overman, stated that the deceased was working in the Harvey seam, and he (witness) was unaware that there was any gas in his board prior to the accident, but observed on the following day some indications of gas issuing through a crack which had probably been caused by the explosion. William Ramsay, manager of the colliery, gave similar evidence, and both witnesses deposed that the board where the accident occurred, was what had been done there. Daniel Gillings, who had been deputy at the colliery, stated that previous to lighting the shot in Stewart's board he examined the place, but found no indications of gas, and observed no cracks in the roof. He fired the shot by means of a straw and touch paper, and he heard the report distinctly before he heard the explosion. He was close to the bottom of the board at the time with his back to the shot, and the deceased and the boy Jackson were close to him, and he could not say how the flame reached him. Witness was much burnt, and was unable for some time afterwards. Witness had never met with gas in Stewart's board previously. William Shaw, a workman at the colliery, attended on the deceased Stewart, who was much burnt by the explosion, and with whom he was able to converse for some time before his death. Deceased never made any complaint against the pit, and he said there was no gas in the board prior to the shot being fired. Witness had been two years and a half employed at the colliery, and never had any complaint to make himself. This was all the evidence, and the jury at once returned a verdict—"That deceased was accidentally burnt by an explosion of gas, and died from his injuries, and that no one was blameable in the matter."

#### REPORT FROM NORTH AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

June 15.—The South Staffordshire Iron Trade is certainly without improvement this week, even if its condition does not show in worse light than we were able to report a week ago. There are a few enquiries for foundry pigs, at prices ranging from 2l. 15s. to 3l. 10s. per ton, and some of the better qualities of finished iron command attention. Common iron, both pig and finished, is in very slack demand, and selling prices are weak and irregular. Unmarked bars are offering freely at 7l. per ton, and some few transactions have been reported at as low a rate as 6l. 15s., other classes being in the usual proportion. There does not seem to be any prospect of an early increase in the number of blast-furnaces in operation, and scarcely half-work is being done at the mills and forges of the district.

The Coal Trade of the same district is in a somewhat anomalous condition. The lower qualities are being forced by competition to a price-standard which will not pay for raising, and numbers of small pits are being closed in consequence every week. On the other hand, the best force coal of Dudley, and the best house coal of Cannock—notwithstanding the restricted demand for each—are both very firm in price, and an intimation has been given that an advance will probably take place in August. The near completion of the Sandwell Park, and other powerful new plants in the Thick coal part of the district, point to an early great increase in the local yield of that class of fuel, with what result upon the market remains to be seen.

The market for shares in coal and iron concerns continues low. The following were among to-day's quotations on the Birmingham Exchange:—Cannock and Huntington Colliery, 1 prem., sellers; Perry Colliery, 1 prem.; Sandwell Park Colliery (10l. paid), 27, sellers; Spon Lane Colliery, 4 dis., sellers; West Cannock Colliery (New), 1 to 2 prem.; Oldbury Carriage, 12, sellers; J. Bagnall and Sons, 5; Chillington Iron, 3l.; Darlaston Steel and Iron, 23; Pelsall Coal and Iron, 5 dis., sellers.

A letter, dated yesterday, from the Wolverhampton Iron Trade Exchange, says:—

"The future of the coal trade about the Bilston district is not improved by the appearance this afternoon, when the promoters of the petition adverse to the operation of the Mines Drainage Act expressed their conviction that before the time when it will be necessary to send it in the document will have possessed the legal force requisite to the cutting off that district from the rest of the drainage area. Such a result the market would greatly deplore, for it would be irrevocably disastrous to the Bilston and Wolverhampton neighbourhood. Apart, however, from that petition, the state of things brought out in the notice of Messrs. Sparrow to stop the Stow Heath pumps, was declared to forebode grave results to the same portion of South Staffordshire, unless some amount of voluntary aid should be forthcoming to supplement the rates of the Commissioners, which is not at present promised."

The North Staffordshire Iron Trade continues flat, and prices of most descriptions of produce are weak and irregular. Since the April quarterly meeting Crown bars declined in value 2s. 6d.; pig-iron 2s. 6d.; ironstone, 1s.; and coal, 1s. 6d. per ton. The prospects of an early improvement are not by any means encouraging.

At the heavy iron foundries of the Black Country a fairly sustained business is doing in gas and water mains, mill gearing and machinery, and other leading descriptions of produce.

Referring to the Mines Drainage Question, Mr. Sparrow writes:—"Mr. Hill admits that on the stoppage of certain engines 22 collieries now at work will be drowned out; but he goes on to say, considering all things, it will not be such a serious calamity as some people would try to make the public believe. The Stow Heath engines are pumping 1400 gallons of water per minute, and it has taken them 10 months to pump out the floods of July, 1875. From that date up to the present month they have not been at blast, having been kept at work up to their utmost capacity. The Sandy Gay engines are pumping 700 gallons a minute, and these engines have not yet overcome last year's floods, and it will probably take two or three months yet to get the pond out. The Bilston water-engine is pumping 800 gallons a minute; the owners of this engine are getting no coal in Bilston Colliery, and have kept this engine at work at their own cost for three years in order to protect their neighbours. Now, if these engines come to stand on July 1 for want of funds, the water will at once rise up to the new mine coal, and will drown out every colliery as far as the new mine coal hollows extend. It is not too much to say that 6,000,000 tons of coal will be irretrievably lost to the district, for, as Colonel Thorneycroft said in a public meeting, no one would have the courage to face this difficulty, and indeed all the available engine-power in the district would be necessary to the task; for I have already shown that they have been taxed to their utmost capacity to contend with the daily come of water. The loss of this enormous quantity of coal would not be felt by the colliery owners alone, but by the general public, and particularly by the ironmasters in the Bilston district. The high price of coal has already put half the works in the district to stand, and the cost of importation, added to the price, will be just sufficient to close those works that are still struggling with the well-known difficulties of the times. It is not my intention to write a long letter, nor to point out all the benefits that may reasonably be expected if the mines drainage scheme is carried out to the extent intended by its promoters. I shall conclude with the words of Mr. Woodhouse, which he used at the Wolverhampton meeting—"If now, upon the first obstacle, by bad trade, to the carrying out of this great and beneficent scheme, they should under the little emergency determine that all the good that had been accomplished, and was likely to be accomplished, should be overturned, they would be an astonishment to the whole mining world throughout all time."

ENFORCEMENT OF THE MINES REGULATION ACT.—At the Willenhall Police Court, on Monday, Mr. William Bickley, proprietor of the Bradley Row Colliery, Bilston, and Thomas Lloyd, overman at the same colliery, were charged, the former with that, on Feb. 29, he neglected to observe the 16th general rule of the Mines Regulation Act, which states—"The roof and sides of every travelling road and working place shall be made secure, and a person shall not, unless appointed for the purpose, travel or work in any such travelling road or working place which

is not so made secure;" and the latter with that, on the same day, he neglected to observe the 31st rule, which directs—"That he (the overman) shall strictly obey the instructions of the agent or manager in making secure the roofs and sides of every travelling road and working place." The case had been adjourned from May 22, and the proceedings were taken by Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector. On Feb. 29 Luke Jones was working in the pit, under a crack in the roof, and owing to his neglect to put up a tree as a support a lump of coal fell upon him and killed him. The defence of Mr. Bickley was that Lloyd had plenty of timber in the pit, and that he ought to have had a tree put up. Lloyd's defence was that he gave the deceased instructions to see to the propping up of the coal. Mr. Bickley was fined 5s. and costs, and Lloyd 2s. and costs. Mr. Walker, solicitor, of Wolverhampton, appeared for the prosecution.

WELLINGTON IRON AND COAL COMPANY.—The fourth general meeting of shareholders was held, on Saturday, at Malinside Hall, near Shifnal, Mr. W. M. Bullivant (the Chairman) presiding.—The report stated that the balance-sheet showed a loss, which had arisen from the exceptional depression and consequent low prices in the iron and coal trades and from other causes. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the results of the make and sale of iron, coal, &c., showed a profit of 2522l. 9s. 5d. With the completion of the colliery and new furnace the directors would now be able to raise 100,000 tons of coal annually at a reduced cost. The new furnace would be ready to blast at the end of the month, and the directors expected confidently to make from this furnace alone 12,500 tons of pig-iron annually, at a further reduced cost. The results of the expenditure on the reconstruction account would enable the company, with two furnaces only in blast, to make 20,000 tons of Old Park pig-iron annually.—The Chairman briefly moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and pointed out the numerous reductions in the costs of working which the directors had effected. All that they really wanted now was a change in the present depressed state of the market.—The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by Dr. G. Horton, and carried unanimously.—Mr. Howell was re-appointed a director, and other formal business was disposed of. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors for the care and attention with which they had performed their duties was then passed, and the meeting concluded.

#### REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

June 15.—Work goes on steadily in the lead mining districts of Derbyshire, but the production does not materially increase, whilst there does not appear to be any desire on the part of capitalists to venture into the trade. One or two Sheffield companies some years since were started to work the ore, but their experience has not been such as to induce others to do likewise. Private enterprise, however, has been far more successful, and the Messrs. Wass have done very well, as they have now the finest mines in the county, and raise more ore than all the others put together. The Coal Trade is by no means so brisk as might be expected now that the men have resumed work after standing for a couple of months, and some difficulty has been experienced in getting into the markets, and securing some of the old customers who had to go into other districts for their coal. In London the competition is very keen between the seaborne and inland coal, and with the low freights from Newcastle the former has been in the ascendant, for the North Country colliery owners have reduced their prices to a very low point. This they are enabled to do, seeing that the freight by water from the Tyne to the Thames is fully 2s. per ton lower than what is charged by the railways taking coal from Derbyshire or Yorkshire. It is, therefore, evident that the inland coal will have to be reduced to a much lower point than it is now at if business is to be done to anything like the extent it has been. Merchants in the Metropolis must have been doing very well of late, as they generally do when prices are at all low, for it is stated to me on good authority that North Country coal has been put into lighters on the Thames as low as 14s. per ton, so that it would leave a very fair margin of profit if sold at 24s. Now, if Silkestone coal is to come down to anything approaching that figure it is evident that wages of miners must come down much lower than they now are. As it is, the consumption of coal has been much less in the Metropolis during the first five months of the present year than it was during the corresponding period of 1875, despite the low prices that have ruled during the last two or three months. Rather more coal has passed from Derbyshire during the past week on to the Great Eastern line, which felt the effects of the strike, as well as most other railways. Steam coal is in better request than it has been for a very long time, but prices have not at all improved.

In some branches of the Sheffield trade business has been tolerably good, but in others there has been marked quietness and short work. The Atlas and Cyclops Works have been busily engaged in armour-plates for ships and forts, having considerable orders for the Continent. Italy has been a capital customer of late, having been engaged in the construction of a couple of very powerful ironclads which the Government wish to be considered as unequalled. They are sheathed with plates of the enormous thickness of 22 in., rolled by Cammell and Co. (Limited), being thicker than any yet introduced into the British Navy. It is considered, however, that two plates, each 11 in. thick, with a strong parting of teak between them, would bestow a much greater resisting power. The establishments engaged in Bessemer rails and forgings have been doing very well, particularly the former, although it is said the prices at which the orders have to be taken are the reverse of good. Some of the ordinary steel smelters are far from being busy, whilst spring-knife cutlers are only partially employed. In fine table cutlery some of the houses are able to keep their men in full work, but such is not the rule. In foundry material business is tolerably good, and now that so many collieries have commenced work business, no doubt, will flow in more freely than it has done for some time past.

In South Yorkshire there are now only some four or five collieries, including Manver's Main, Swaithe and Edmund's Main, and Wharfedale Woodmoor, standing; and, no doubt, a few days will see them again in full operation. Prices of coal of every description are very low, and even the reduction in wages will leave our colliery owners with a very small margin of profit. Some of the colliery companies are in anything but a healthy state; and now the little concerns, for which fabulous sums were given some four or five years ago, stagger those who are well acquainted with the trade. They have been worked at a loss; and, as coal must come down lower than it now is, the prospects are certainly most gloomy. The Silkestone Main Colliery, recently in possession of the Coal Consumers' Company, is to be sold, on Wednesday next, in Barnsley; and in all probability will be purchased by a company recently started to work the adjoining coal field. By so doing it would not require the company alluded to to sink a couple of shafts to the Silkestone coal. The secretaries of the Miners' Association just now are in anything but good odour, and have found it necessary to propound a new scheme for its management; but the men are strongly opposed to sending any more money to the headquarters at Barnsley, and declare that each lodge shall retain its own money. The future of the Association appears to be anything but bright, for both inside and outside there are dissensions that are most portentous.

In West Yorkshire the miners have been asked to submit to a reduction of 12½ per cent.; and there is every reason to believe that a settlement will be come to.

The annual meeting of the great iron and steel manufacturing company of Charles Cammell and Co. (Limited), Sheffield, was held on Wednesday, at the works, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Cammell. The report showed that the company had made a net profit during the year of 106,869l., and that with a balance of 7328l. from last year there was a total for the shareholders of 114,197l. An interim dividend of 3l. per share had already been paid, and the directors now proposed paying 8l. per share more, making a dividend equal to 10 per cent. In moving the report, Mr. Cammell said the commercial horizon was still overshadowed by clouds, and he was afraid the country had to pass through a time of depression, but after that renewed vigour would set in.—Mr. Munster, a large shareholder, stated that the company's shares had suddenly risen from 1 dis. to 5 prem.—The report was unanimously adopted.

The directors of John Brown and Co. (Limited), Atlas Steel and Iron Works, Sheffield, have decided to recommend a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, inclusive of interim dividend paid in December.

James Peet, the engineman through whose mistake three men lost their lives at the High Brooks Colliery, near Wigan, on Monday, has been committed for trial, on a coroner's inquisition, for manslaughter. The Government Inspector of Mines for the district (Mr. Hall) said he hardly thought the mistake Peet made—turning his lever the wrong way while hurried by the talk of persons near him—was a criminal one, and when the mistake had been made there was little time to correct it, the interval between its commission and the ar-



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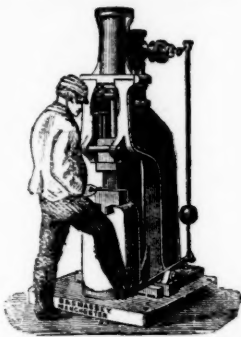
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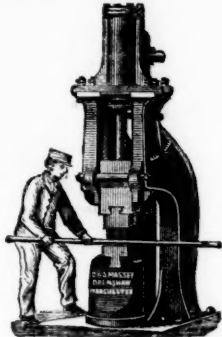
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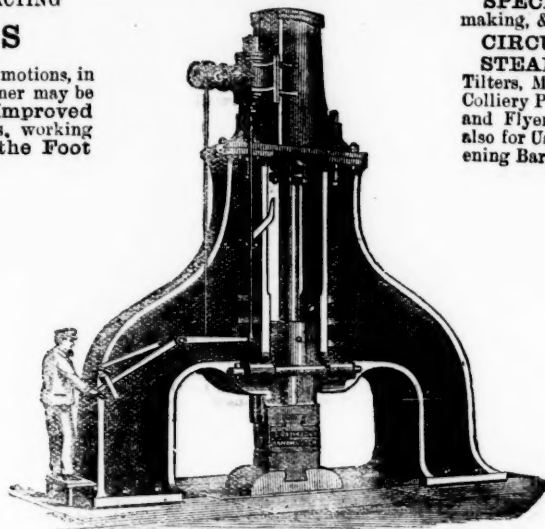
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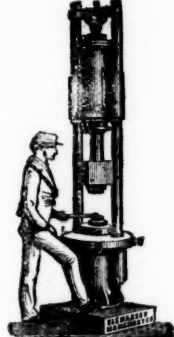
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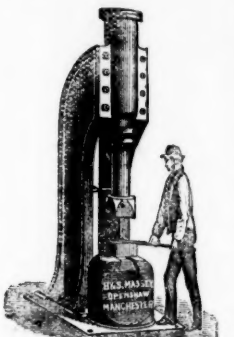
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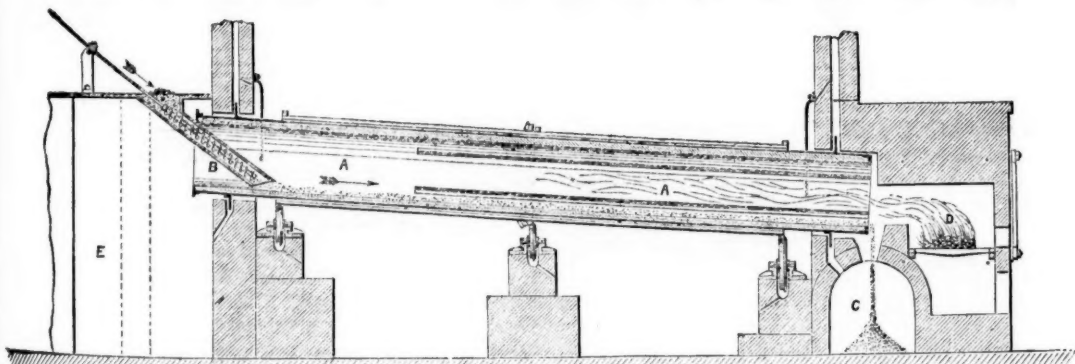
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